

**TESTIMONY**  
**House State Affairs Committee**  
**HB 301, HB 306, HB 1760, HB 175, HB 22, HB 1131**  
**April 2, 2007**

The League of Women Voters (LWV-TX) is a non-partisan, political organization with 32 local Leagues across the state. Women's health and access to safe, legal abortions is very important to our members.

LWV-TX **supports** HB 301 (Farrar) and HB 306 (Farrar) that would exempt women seeking abortions from the mandatory waiting period and informed consent requirements when the fetus is determined to have a severe and irreversible abnormality and/or when the woman seeking an abortion is the victim of sexual assault. Exempting women in these situations from the waiting period and informed consent requirements is both reasonable and humane. The physical and the mental health of the women to whom these exemptions would be available are at risk, and they are entitled to prompt access to an abortion if their choice is to terminate their pregnancies.

LWV-TX **supports** HB 1760 (Coleman) that would remove from the informed consent to abortion statute the currently required *misinformation* that having an abortion increases one's risk of contracting breast cancer. If the state is to mandate that women be informed of the risks of abortion, that information should be accurate and consistent with materials promulgated by mainstream medical organizations and experts. There is no credible medical evidence that abortion increases one's risk of getting breast cancer. Enactment of this measure would remove this untrue and misleading information from the materials currently required by Texas' informed consent statute.

LWV-TX **opposes** HB 175 (Chisum) that provides that should a U.S. Supreme Court decision or U.S. Constitutional amendment declares that states are no longer prohibited from banning abortions, a person who performs abortions in Texas would thenceforth be subject to criminal proceedings and penalties. In other words, all abortions in the state would be outlawed. Women seeking abortions, including those whose lives and health are at risk from their pregnancies, would have no recourse other than unsafe, back-alley procedures that many died from in the years preceding the Roe v. Wade decision.

LWV-TX **opposes** HB 22 (Corte) that would require physicians' offices that are exempt from licensure as abortion facilities to comply with minimum standards adopted for abortion facilities. The intent of this measure is apparently to harass and discourage doctors who sometimes perform abortions.

LWV-TX **opposes** HB 1131 (Zedler) that would mandate unnecessary and burdensome reporting requirements on physicians who provide care to women for complications resulting from an abortion or attempted abortion. The effect of this measure would be to discourage physicians from providing abortion care and thus deny needed reproductive health care to women.

LWV-TX, on behalf of our approximately 3000 members statewide, appreciates this opportunity to express our views. Thank you for your consideration.