



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MICHIGAN

EDUCATING AND ADVOCATING FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

August 12, 2012

Michigan State Senators
P. O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Senator :

The League of Women Voters of Michigan opposes HB 5711 as reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee and which is now in the Senate for passage. This bill will not protect the health or well-being of Michigan's women; instead, it would create unnecessary barriers to women being able to obtain a safe and legal medical procedure.

Since 1983, the League of Women Voters has believed that public policy in a pluralistic society must affirm the constitutional right to privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices. The new requirements included in HB 5711 would limit access to safe legal abortions in Michigan.

For example, all clinics that provide abortion services would be required to meet the standards for free-standing, surgical facilities even if no surgery is being performed. These unnecessary and costly requirements would cause many of those clinics to close. Today, most abortions take place as the result of the administration of pills, not surgery.

The bill also requires women who have accidental miscarriages to involve a medical director and a funeral director as well as to publish death notices in the newspaper. This is an unnecessary intrusion of privacy at a very difficult time in a woman's life.

In addition, physicians have testified that passage of this legislation could reduce the number of obstetricians and gynecologists in our state, at a time when we are trying to reduce Michigan's high rate of infant mortality.

For these reasons, the League of Women Voters of Michigan is urging you to vote NO on HB5711.

Sincerely,

Susan Smith
President