



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MICHIGAN

EDUCATING AND ADVOCATING FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

December 3, 2014

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

The League of Women Voters of Michigan opposes the Religious Freedom Restoration Act that is on the House Judiciary Committee's agenda for December 4. The bill as introduced by Speaker Bolger gives permission for discrimination based on religious beliefs.

While the League certainly supports the U.S. and Michigan Constitutions which provide freedom of worship and religious beliefs, this proposed bill, HB 5958, goes much further. Religious beliefs could be used by employees to discriminate to whom they offer services as well as what information they provide. For example, a school teacher could refuse to teach a subject because it is against his/her beliefs, another employee could decide not to provide medically accurate information based on his/her religious beliefs, etc. This bill would give people, based on their religious beliefs, the right to harm others.

The League strongly supports equal rights and equal opportunity for all and promotes social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans. We cannot allow religious beliefs to be used to take away an individual's right to be treated fairly. We urge you to oppose HB 5958.

Sincerely,

Susan K Smith
President