



THE LEAGUE  
OF WOMEN VOTERS

M I C H I G A N

EDUCATING AND ADVOCATING FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

February 27, 2011

Senator Judy Emmons, Chair  
Senate Families, Seniors and Human Services Committee  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Senator Emmons:

The League of Women Voters of Michigan opposes passage of SB 904, the legislation to require drug testing based on suspicion for public assistance recipients. The bill was recently introduced by Senator Joseph Hune is assigned to the Senate Families, Seniors and Human Services Committee.

SB 904 requires the Department of Human Services to make an applicant or a recipient of public assistance to submit to substance abuse testing if the caseworker has a reasonable suspicion of abuse. If the applicant or recipient tests negative he/she may receive assistance. If the applicant tests positive he/she is ineligible. The applicant or recipient may reapply after 180 days if tests positive and completed treatment. Public assistance means the family independence program, state family assistance, state disability, food assistance program or child development and care program. There is no mention of who pays for the drug testing.

The League of Women Voters supports administrative procedures that are conducted with respect for the rights and dignity of the individual. Therefore, we urge you to oppose this legislation.

Sincerely,

*Susan Smith*

Susan Smith, President  
League of Women Voters of Michigan

cc. Senator Joseph Hune



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February 27, 2011

Representative Kenneth Kurtz, Chair  
House Families, Children and Seniors Committee  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative Kurtz:

The League of Women Voters of Michigan opposes passage of HB 5223, the legislation to require drug testing for public assistance recipients. The bill was recently introduced by Representative Farrington and assigned to the House Families, Children and Seniors Committee.

HB 5223 requires the Department of Human Services to establish a program of substance abuse testing as a condition of eligibility for family independence program assistance benefits. All applicants must submit to testing before a final determination of eligibility. If the applicant tests positive or refuses to be tested, then he/she is ineligible for assistance. If an applicant tests negative and is eligible, the cost of administering the substance abuse test shall be deducted from the first family independence assistance payment.

The League of Women Voters supports administrative procedures that are conducted with respect for the rights and dignity of the individual. Therefore, we urge you to oppose this legislation.

Sincerely,

*Susan Smith*

Susan Smith, President  
League of Women Voters of Michigan

cc. Representative Jeff Farrington