EDUCATING AND ADVOCATING FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

December 9, 2014

ACTION ALERT TO LWVMI MEMBERS: Proposed Religious Rights Restoration Legislation

Last week the Michigan House of Representatives passed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. The bill would limit the government's ability to prevent discrimination by allowing individuals to discriminate, based on their religious beliefs. The bill is on its way to the Michigan Senate for action. The League of Women Voters of Michigan urges you to contact your state Senator to oppose the bill.

Click here_to let your State Senator know that you oppose this bill, HB 5958, because:

- These changes would permit previously outlawed discrimination
- The MI and U.S Constitutions already protect the free exercise of religion

Thank you!			
Sincerely,			
Sue Smith, President			
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Suggested Text:

I urge you to oppose passage of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, HB 5958. The bill as passed by the MI House of Representatives gives permission for discrimination based on religious beliefs.

The U.S. and Michigan Constitutions provide freedom of worship and religious beliefs, but 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.

Do not allow religious beliefs to be used to take away an individual's right to be treated fairly. I urge you to oppose the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.