



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ®
OF INDIANA**

Dear Senator Steele,

I am writing to express the League of Women Voters of Indiana's opposition to both SB66 and SB352.

The League of Women Voters (LWV) is 95 years old and is one of the nation's oldest nonpartisan organizations. Although primarily known for its voter education and service work, the LWV is an advocacy organization with firmly held policy positions on equal rights, social and economic justice, health and safety for all, and safeguarding democracy.

LWV Opposes SB 66

The LWV opposes repealing the Religious Freedom and Restoration Act. This is a harmful bill that will negatively impact Hoosier families and the economy by putting Indiana back into an unwanted spotlight. LGBTQ Hoosiers deserve the same rights as their fellow citizens and putting discrimination “back on the books” by repealing RFRA, and its “fix” that at least upholds the status of local non-discrimination ordinances, is an unwise and unfair decision. The League is also concerned about the possible unintended consequences of this bill’s impact on gun legislation. We believe it has the potential to elevate the status of the right to bear arms to require “strict scrutiny” of all laws involving the use, carry, sale, or possession of firearms and would make it harder for Indiana law enforcement to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people.

Given the LWV’s position on equality as well as sensible gun control, we firmly oppose SB 66.

LWV Opposes SB 352

The LWVIN has long stood by the policy that Indiana should maintain a single statewide court system with uniformity of rules and records, of fiscal responsibility, of assignment of judges and cases, and of administration. Moreover, candidates for judgeships should be nominated under an impartial merit plan by a commission. Judicial selection by legislators, as proposed under SB 352, does not lend itself to impartiality or fairness. We urge you to go further and to work to create a merit selection system that supports accountability, fairness, and transparency.

Thank you.

Erin Kelley & Lisa Plencner
Co-Presidents, League of Women Voters of Indiana

CC: Senators Young, Bray, Delph, Glick, Head, Zakas, Randolph, Broden, and Taylor