



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ®
OF INDIANA**

Dear Representative Dermody,

I am writing to express the League of Women Voters of Indiana's opposition to HB 1337—a bill that we believe does not protect women's health, but rather makes an already difficult situation worse by inserting politics and costly unnecessary record keeping into private medical decision-making.

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 a strong stance on equitable access to basic health care, including reproductive care, and on privacy rights as guaranteed by the Supreme Court of the United States.

As is the case with all healthcare-related activities, the patient, doctor, and, if the patient chooses, his or her family are the only individuals who should be involved in medical decision-making. The government has no role in scripting doctor/patient conversations or in urging unnecessary medical procedures.

Repeatedly asking a woman if she understands her own decision-making abilities through onerous informed consent requirements, including medically unnecessary ultrasounds and heart beat auscultations, is to treat her differently than all other medical patients across the state.

Not only does HB 1337 intrude into one's private decision-making, it potentially creates an access barrier to a legal medical procedure. Should the physician performing the abortion not be able to attain a written agreement with another physician who has admitting privileges at a local hospital, abortions in that area will cease. With the low complication rates associated with abortion, and the fact many women travel to different counties to obtain an abortion and wouldn't even use the hospital where admitting privileges are shared, it is the LWV's belief that HB 1337's intent is to restrict abortion access rather than protect women's health.

If abortion is to be tackled in the General Assembly, let it be through legislation to prevent unplanned pregnancies by funding reproductive education to the youth of Indiana and by supporting medical facilities which provide needed and safe reproductive health care services to men and women.

Thank you.

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

CC: Representatives Wesco, Clere, Eberhart, Ellington, Huston, Lehman, Lucas, Smaltz, GiaQuinta, Austin, Brown, and Summers