

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE REPRODUCTIVE LIBERTY AMENDMENT,  
PROPOSITION 5

League of Women Voters of Vermont

To Vermont's Legislative Assembly:

The League of Women Voters of Vermont strongly supports the Reproductive Liberty Amendment (RLA), Proposition 5. The League is a nonpartisan organization encouraging the informed and active participation in government of all Americans. Founded by activists who, over 100 years ago, secured voting rights for women, the League has fought for an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.

Since 1983, the League has officially supported reproductive choice. We maintain every person's right of access to affordable, high quality reproductive health care, including access to abortion services and birth control. Our position is that "PUBLIC POLICY IN A PLURALISTIC SOCIETY MUST AFFIRM THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT OF PRIVACY" and that includes the right of the individual to make reproductive choices.

The League supports treating reproductive rights, including access to abortion, as a health care issue decidable by the individual and their qualified healthcare provider. It should NOT be decided by the whim of political pundits nor by strangers, indifferent and unconcerned with individual needs and situations.

Particularly now, when rights to personal healthcare decisions are being revoked in states all across our union, we strongly support legislation, such as the RLA, that supports our commitment to an individual's privacy – that enshrines in our constitution the individual right to decide healthcare issues and that advances reproductive rights. Furthermore, The League has joined with other pro-choice organizations nationwide in opposition to restrictions in reproductive choices, particularly those that have appeared in Congress and in other states to overturn funding measures, to gut the law of the land, Roe v. Wade, and that enact repressive measures of retribution for those seeking reproductive freedoms. These types of measures undermine constitutional integrity. They are not representative of, accountable to, nor responsive to the needs of the majority of Americans, and most adversely affect minorities and those in a lower socio-economic status.

We in Vermont, are poised to take the strongest stand possible in support of these individual rights. With the passage of the RLA as an amendment to our constitution, you can help maintain Vermonters' right to privacy and informed healthcare, regardless of what happens nationally. The League of Women Voters of Vermont strongly encourages you to vote "yes" for the Reproductive Liberty Amendment, Proposition 5.

Thank you.

The League of Women Voters of Vermont