



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF TEXAS**

## **ACTION ALERT:**

**Ask your State Senator to vote against further abortion restrictions, including HB 3994 (Morrison)**

### **Who Should Respond to This Action Alert:**

- Local League presidents should respond in the name of the local League and members.
- Members should respond as individuals in their own names and also share this information with friends, asking them to contact their legislators.

**When:** Please make these contacts NOW as **HB 3994** could be brought before the full Senate at any time.

### **ACTION NEEDED:**

Contact your state senator NOW with the message that you oppose more abortion restrictions, including HB 3994. Ask them to focus on the critical issues now before them instead of putting further restrictions on women's private medical options and decisions.

### Talking Points re HB 3994:

- This bill imposes serious obstacles to young women seeking safe, legal abortions.
- It restricts venue for minors seeking a judicial bypass in lieu of parental consent to an abortion and also requires minors to appear in person rather than through other typically-permissible methods like teleconference. It is critical for their protection that young women, particularly those who reside in less populous and rural counties, be allowed to file bypass petitions in other counties than where they reside, where there is less risk of compromising the confidentiality of the proceedings.
- It requires judges in bypass cases to determine by "clear and convincing evidence" that granting the bypass is in the minor's best interest, a far higher bar than "preponderance of evidence" that is the current standard of proof. The proposed standard places an unreasonable and unnecessary burden on minors to meet this standard within the time constraints of obtaining a safe, legal abortion.
- It extends from two to five days the time frame in which judges must rule in these cases BUT also provides that a judge's failure to rule during this time is considered a denial of the bypass.
- The judicial bypass procedure was written into Texas law to protect minors whose lives might be endangered if they were required to obtain parental consent. The bypass procedure is

infrequently used but in these types of situations has been successful in protecting the lives of vulnerable young women.

### **Contacting Legislators:**

To email a legislator:

- The format for House email addresses is: [firstname.lastname@house.state.tx.us](mailto:firstname.lastname@house.state.tx.us)
- The format for Senate email addresses is: [firstname.lastname@senate.state.tx.us](mailto:firstname.lastname@senate.state.tx.us)

Legislators who represent you and their phone numbers can be found [here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Julie Lowenberg, [jmlowenberg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jmlowenberg@sbcglobal.net) 214-352-4667