January 26, 2016

To: Criminal Justice Committee

Re: HB1628 relative to human trafficking of minors

The League of Women Voters New Hampshire urges the committee to consider the seriousness of human trafficking, particularly as it relates to minors. Whether this bill is the best bill to achieve reductions in such activity is for the legislature to decide. The League wants to make known its support for efforts to reduce human trafficking.

At the national League level, delegates to the 2014 convention adopted the following position:

STATEMENT OF POSITION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

As adopted at the LWVUS 2014 National Convention

The League of Women Voters opposes all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking. We consider human trafficking to be a form of modern day slavery and believe that every measure should be taken and every effort should be made through legislation and changes in public policy to prevent human trafficking. Prosecution and penalization of traffickers and abusers should be established, and existing laws should be strictly enforced. Extensive essential services for victims should be applied where needed. Education and awareness programs on human trafficking should be established in our communities and in our schools.

Sincerely,

Liz Tentarelli, president
League of Women Voters NH

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