LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
MICHIGAN
EDUCATING AND ADVOCATING FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

Testimony by League of Women Voters of Michigan on HB 6004

November 28, 2012

My name is Susan Smith; I am President of the League of Women Voters of Michigan.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to address the Committee.

The League of Women Voters of Michigan opposes HB 6004 as introduced. While this bill makes many changes, the League is particularly concerned about the provisions to take away local control over 5% of the lowest performing schools in the state. The bill would give the authority previously held by the local school board and local superintendent to a state appointed Board and Chancellor.

The League of Women Voters believes in promoting an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive. The proposed Educational Achievement Authority that would oversee 5% of the schools in the state is accountable only to a board appointed by the Governor. This is not representative government.

The voters defeated the Emergency Manager Law, PA4 of 2011, less than a month ago. This attempt to codify the EAA would bring back the Emergency Manager in a different form but with similar authority, the ability to abrogate the authority of local elected public officials.

The League supports the development of a publicly financed public education system in which there is equal opportunity for good education available to all children in Michigan. The state should set goals and guidelines in order to ensure a good basic education for all children. The state should not take over the schools.

We urge the committee to oppose passage of HB 6004.

Thank you.

Susan Smith, President
League of Women Voters of Michigan

600 W. SAINT JOSEPH ST., SUITE 3G, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48933-2288 (517) 484-5383
FAX: (517) 484-3086 office@lwvmi.org www.lwvmi.org