

**For Immediate Release**  
**August 7, 2020**  
**www.lwvga.org**

**Contact: Susannah Scott**  
**404-522-4598**  
**susannah@lwvga.org**

In the final days of the 2020 Legislative session, the state legislature passed HB 838, a severely flawed bill aimed at silencing Georgians' demand for police accountability. Wednesday, August 5, 2020, Gov. Brian Kemp signed the bill into law.

"The League of Women Voters of Georgia is extremely disappointed in this outcome. This bill was directed at intimidating and punishing those involved in Black Lives Matter protests," stated Susannah Scott, President of the League of Women Voters.

The addition of the "bias motivated intimidation" of police, firefighters, and paramedics allows first responders to bring civil suits against any person or group they feel has accused them of false misconduct. What constitutes "bias motivated intimidation" is not clearly defined, which creates ambiguity and confusion.

"Although we stand in full support of all law enforcement, we view this new law as yet another tactic to suppress the voices of the people and legitimate claims of abuse through intimidation," Scott continued.

The League of Women Voters of Georgia, which was borne out of the struggle for women's suffrage 100 years ago, recognizes that marches, protests, street speaking, and demonstrations are viable means of making our voices heard. Because of the protests, marches, and tireless work of women like Alice Paul, Susan B. Anthony, Carrie Chapman Catt, Ida B. Wells and many more, women here in Georgia and across the nation know their votes count, their opinions matter, and their voices are heard. One hundred years later, Americans are again in the streets across the country protesting for civil rights and social justice. The League will continue to champion those whose voices have been marginalized. In a healthy democracy, all voices need to be heard!

###