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TESTIMONY FROM

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DELAWARE

SB 31 – Equal Rights Based on Race, Color and National Origin

January 26, 2021

SB 31 aligns with the League's position in support of equal rights and equal opportunities for all.

It adds the underlined words to the following sentence in the Constitution:

"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged

on account of race, color, national origin, or sex."

We look to our state's Constitution to proclaim our state's values and principles. It needs to declare openly that equality is a core value.

It is not enough that the General Assembly has passed specific state statutes prohibiting various forms of discrimination. These laws are good, but they do not have the same status as a pronouncement in our Constitution's "Bill of Rights" that equality is a fundamentally guaranteed constitutional right in our state. Delaware needs to make it known, clearly and emphatically, that we are a state where all citizens are treated as individuals, with respect and dignity.

This amendment to our Constitution will correct an omission that is critically in need of correcting. We urge your support of SB 31