



PO BOX 8453, COLUMBIA, SC, 29202, (803) 606-0431, WWW.LWVSC.ORG

29 Feb 2024

H. 4561 LWVSC Testimony, Constitutional Laws Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee

The League of Women Voters has long advocated for measures that would expand the pool of those who are able to serve in public office, especially those who are underrepresented among our legislators and other officials. We have also had a continuing interest in the ethical issues surrounding campaign funding.

We are pleased to be able to strongly support this bill, H.4561, which would allow use of campaign funds for dependent care expenses. We are especially pleased that includes not just child care but also care for other immediate family with serious medical issues. Those of us who have been caregivers know that a medically fragile person of any age makes many demands of immediate family.

There is always a need for ethical considerations in assessing campaign fund uses. Candidates and officials should not turn to campaign funds for basic personal living expenses. However, the need for these expenditures would not exist without the diversion of time and energy to the public good. This is a very legitimate use.

Public officials should not just "look like South Carolina" but represent the wide range of life experiences and perspectives of our people. We believe that this bill will lead to a broader representation in public office of our diverse population. Please forward this bill with a favorable recommendation.

Contact: Lynn S. Teague, VP for Issues and Action, LWVSC
803 556-9802
teaguelynn@gmail.com