

**LWV-TX Resolution
2018 Convention**

Name of League: Collin County

Resolution: LWV-TX write a letter to the governor and all Texas Senators and Representatives recommending that the Education Code be modified to include a required, robust social and emotional learning curriculum at every grade level in order to reduce societal violence by ensuring that every student learns interaction skills such as empathy and calm conflict resolution.

Name of position: Violence Prevention

“The League of Women Voters of the United States supports violence prevention programs in all communities and action to support:

- . public and private development and coordination of programs that emphasize the primary prevention of violence.
- . the active role of government and social institutions in preventing violent behavior.
- . the allocation of public monies in government programs to prevent violence.”

Background information: Violence is in the news every day, including school shootings. These events are often immediately followed by calls for gun legislation and then by calls to defend gun rights. We appear to be stuck repeatedly debating a single solution.

There is another solution that deserves consideration, and that is widespread improvement in social interaction skills, such as empathy and calm conflict resolution. In order for it to be widespread, it must be taught in schools. In order for it to be taken seriously by educators and students, it must be required by the Education Code. In order to gain long-lasting proficiency, it must be included at all grade levels, just like other core subjects.

In the 83rd legislative session, San Antonio Representative McClendon submitted an HB5 amendment to modify the Education Code to add a 5th core subject to “develop the required foundation curriculum to teach students skills in social, emotional, and behavioral interaction to prepare students for adult responsibility.” The amendment was tabled.

Evidence that the issue is a current legislative priority: There are many US bills for violence prevention, primarily related to gun control.

(S.2095 Assault Weapons Ban of 2017, HR.5087 Assault Weapons Ban of 2018 , S.2009 Background Check Expansion Act, S.2470 Age 21 Act, S.1916 Automatic Gunfire Prevention Act, HR.1832 and S.834 CDC research on gun violence prevention, S.1212 Gun Violence Prevention Order Act of 2017, HR.2598 Gun Violence Restraining Order Act of 2017, HR.4268 Gun Safety: Not Sorry Act of 2017, HR.4240 Public Safety and Second Amendment Rights Protection Act of 2017, HR.4142 Safer Communities Act of 2017, HR.4192 Domestic Violence Gun Homicide Prevention Act of 2017)

Evidence that the issue is time sensitive and requires Texas state government action:

Here are statistics that support the need for quick action.

. There were 5.7 million violent victimizations of US residents in 2016.

(<https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=6166>)

. There were 749,400 violent victimizations at school among students 12-18 years old in 2016.

(<https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=6206>)

Texas state legislation is the only way to get required Social Emotional Learning curriculum into the Texas Education Code.

Address the resolution to: The Governor and all state legislators