

May 13, 2016

Remarks at Press Conference called by State Senator Jeff Jackson at CPCC uptown Charlotte Campus.

I'm Beth Springston, current President of the League of Women Voters of Charlotte Mecklenburg.

In April, League leaders from across North Carolina voted unanimously to call for the immediate and complete repeal of HB 2 passed by the NC General Assembly on March 23 of this year.

We are dismayed with the passage of a piece of legislation that legalizes discrimination and want to make clear that we oppose any attempt to put a referendum before the voters to that end.

The League of Women Voters, founded in 1920 by non-partisan activists who secured voting rights for women, has worked to promote the values and processes of representative government. Since its beginning the League has studied issues and adopted policy positions. To quote from one: "The League of Women Voters believes that all levels of government share the responsibility to provide equality of opportunity for education, employment, and housing for all persons in the United States regardless of their race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability" That's just one of our policies that we use to oppose HB 2.

The League has long supported a range of federal education programs. The League worked for passage of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which prohibits sex discrimination in educational institutions that receive federal aid. Subsequent League action focused on thwarting congressional attempts to dilute Title IX, as well as on advancing federal enforcement efforts.

At the national level, the League played a role in the major court

challenges to Title IX, defending key provisions and urging a broad interpretation of Title IX's scope.

After decades of this activism, the last thing we want to see threatened is federal funding for education in North Carolina. We support the legislators in Raleigh who are calling for repeal of HB2. Our children deserve no less.