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**THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS**
of New York State

MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT OF:
A.4738 (Gottfried)/ S.4840 (Rivera)

To: New York State Assembly Health Committee
Date: February 14th, 2017

SUBJECT: AN ACT to amend the public health law and the state finance law, in relation to establishing New York Health

The League of Women Voters of New York State supports the above referenced legislation (A.4738/S.4840) because even after the full implementation of the Affordable Care Act, 1.65 million New Yorkers will remain uninsured and of those that do have health insurance, many are underinsured. Employer-based health plans that provide coverage through private for-profit insurance companies create a piecemeal coverage system that does not guarantee access to necessary health services. Uninsured and underinsured New Yorkers often forgo necessary health care, which increases their risk of illness and disease.

Under the New York Health plan, the current system of health care coverage would be replaced by a comprehensive, single payer coverage program financed through existing federal, state and local sources as well as through new, progressive assessments on payroll and non-payroll income. The “local share” of Medicaid funding - a major share on local property taxes - would be ended. Our current system of inefficient and inadequate health care coverage plans would provide access to appropriate health care and would target New York’s scarce healthcare dollars toward providing universal access to high quality, cost-effective care for all residents, regardless of age, income, health or employment status.

The League of Women Voter of New York State has long supported policies that promote access to a basic level of quality care at an affordable cost for all, while ensuring the efficient and cost-effective delivery of care.

For the above reasons, the League of Women Voters of New York State strongly supports A.4738/S.4840.