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

**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF:**  
**A.1748 (GLICK)**

**TO: New York State Assembly**  
**DATE: January 17, 2017**

***Subject: An act to amend the public health law, in relation to enacting the Reproductive Health Act.***

The League of Women Voters of New York State strongly supports this legislation which would codify Roe v Wade in New York State. Most importantly it would remove from Penal law references to abortion as homicide, manslaughter or criminally negligent homicide thereby protecting medical practitioners who care for women accessing legal abortion in New York State.

This legislation would also amend education law to allow licensed, certified or authorized medical practitioners under title eight of the education law acting within their scope of practice to perform a legal abortion.

In the face of increasing attacks on reproductive rights, New York's laws need to clearly state their protection of women's reproductive health and safety and reflect our current medical practice which is provided under federal law as interpreted in the Roe v. Wade decision.

The League of Women Voters of New York State has long supported a woman's constitutional right to privacy in making reproductive choices. This legislation would add those protections in Roe v. Wade to New York State Public Health Law. It would protect New York women in the event that Roe v. Wade is no longer the law of the land.

The State would continue to regulate abortion in the same way it regulates other medical services. Consistent with Roe v. Wade, the Act would allow abortion up to 24 weeks and after that, only if there is a threat to the woman's health or life.

This legislation will not force any hospital or individual to provide abortion. Nor will this legislation prevent the state from regulating abortion to ensure its safety. The NYS Department of Education will continue to license those qualified medical professionals who are permitted to perform abortions.

***The League of Women Voters of New York State strongly urges your support for A.1748, which is designed to protect the fundamental right of individuals to make personal, private reproductive health care decisions.***