



The League of Women Voters of New York State
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**THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS**
of New York State

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF:

A.1378 (Cahill)

TO: New York State Assembly

DATE: January 17th, 2017

Subject: Enacts the "comprehensive contraception coverage act" to provide insurance coverage for FDA-approved contraceptive drugs, devices and products.

The League of Women Voters of New York State strongly supports the above referenced legislation which requires that insurance companies in New York State cover a wide range of contraception; including all FDA approved contraceptive drugs, devices, and products; and allow women to access 12 months of contraception at one time (instead of the 1-3 month allotments usually dispensed).

This legislation makes the requirements of the Affordable Care Act regarding the choice of contraception more enforceable. Spot checks have shown that currently insurance companies are limiting the choice of contraception, rather than allow the full range of options that the Affordable Care Act requires. In addition many are charging co-pays despite the fact that the legislation states that contraception is to be provided without charge. In the event that the Affordable Health Act is repealed this legislation will protect New York's women from the danger of unwanted pregnancy due to the financial difficulty of accessing care.

The League of Women Voters believes that everyone should have access to a basic level of healthcare that includes prevention, health promotion, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive healthcare), acute care and mental health treatment. Further, the League of Women Voters of New York State believes that people have a fundamental right to privacy as they make reproductive healthcare decisions, and that their economic status should not limit their opportunity to make those decisions, based on their own personal beliefs and desires.

For the above reasons, the League of Women Voters of New York State strongly urges your support of the Comprehensive Contraception Coverage Act.