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THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
of New York State

**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF:
S. 4614A/ Boyle**

TO: New York State Senate
DATE: June 13, 2014
SUBJECT: *An act to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to regulation of toxic chemicals in children's products*

The League of Women Voters of New York State supports S. 4614A (The Child Safe Products Act).

The League of Women Voters has the Public Policy Position in support of Early Intervention for Children at Risk to support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development and safety of all children.

When children are exposed to toxic chemicals during critical periods of their development, these chemicals can harm the brain, trigger asthma, increase likelihood of developing cancer, promote obesity, increase likelihood of diabetes, and lead to future infertility. This threatens their well-being and healthy development.

Product testing and reporting programs in other states have determined that thousands of kinds of products made for children contain chemicals that can pose these health dangers. Parents have no way of knowing whether a product is toxic or not, leaving them unable to protect their children.

The Child Safe Products Act creates a mechanism by which the State can regulate chemicals in children's products to ensure they are safe for use and free from chemicals that could impact their health over their lifetime. It requires manufacturers of children products to report if certain priority chemicals are used in their products and by 2018 would prohibit the sale, distribution or offering of new children's products that contain an initial set of priority chemicals. The bill also authorizes the Department of Environmental Conservation to periodically review the list of priority chemicals and, through regulation, identify additional chemicals of high concern as well as priority chemicals for manufacturer reporting.

Other states across the country have enacted similar legislation, including California, Maine, Minnesota Vermont, and Washington. The League of Women Voters of New York State believes New York should follow suit.

The League of Women Voters of New York State urges your support of S. 4614A.