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

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF:
A.6221/GLICK

TO: NYS Assembly
DATE: March 23, 2015

Subject: AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to reproductive services.

The League of Women Voters of New York State strongly supports the above referenced legislation, which would guarantee a woman's right to make personal, private decisions about her reproductive health care. This legislation will protect the right to choose or refuse abortion and protect private reproductive health choices by making New York's laws consistent with Roe v. Wade.

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.6112, which is designed to protect the fundamental right of individuals to make personal, private reproductive health care decisions.