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

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF:
A.1926 (Kavanagh)/S.0496 (Squadron)

TO: NYS Assembly Elections Committee
DATE: February 14th, 2017

Subject: An act to amend the election law, in relation to political contributions

The League of Women Voters of New York State supports legislation to close the legal loophole that allows large donors to give millions of dollars of campaign contributions through limited liability companies (LLCs). This bill would add Limited Liability Companies to section 14-116 of the election law to make them subject to the \$5,000 limit on contributions from corporations. It would also attribute contributions to members of LLCs and disclose the identity of individual members. Federal rules now treat LLCs as corporations or partnerships, and in most contexts other than campaign finance rules, New York state law treats LLCs like other business entities, rather than as individuals.

As we have seen time and again, elected officials that receive large donations from a few donors do not always respond to the majority, but instead let the interests of a tiny minority dominate the government agenda. The League of Women Voters is devoted to ensuring that state officials are more responsive to the needs of all citizens across New York and therefore urges you to close the LLC Loophole.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. As such, we strongly believe that citizens, not money, should be the principal decision makers in the election of legislators.

The League of Women Voters of New York State strongly supports A.1926 (Kavanagh)/S.0469 (Squadron).