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

June 24, 2011

**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT of:
S. 5849 (Seward)/A. 8514 (Morelle)**

Subject: An act to amend the public authorities law and the public officers law in relation to the establishment of the New York Health Benefit Exchange

The League of Women Voters New York strongly supports this legislation which, in accordance with the federal Affordable Care Act, would establish a marketplace for the purchase and sale of qualified health plans in New York State. This legislation is necessary to allow the state to qualify for federal funding of up to \$100 million to support the complex process of establishing the New York Health Benefit Exchange (“Exchange”).

The bill establishes New York’s Exchange as a single, public benefit corporation that incorporates the individual and commercial markets. The powers granted to the Exchange will enable it to meet the requirements of the Affordable Care Act. The Board of Directors and the Regional Advisory Committees created by this bill will engage stakeholders in a meaningful way.

New York must not delay the enactment of the New York Health Benefit Exchange Act. To do so would be risking up to \$100 million in federal funding. The League of Women Voters New York urges the Legislature to pass this bill as the critical first step in providing accessible and affordable, comprehensive health insurance coverage for the people of New York.

The League of Women Voters of NYS strongly urges your approval of S.5849/A.8514.