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

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF:
S.2917/Fuschillo

TO: Senate
DATE: January 30, 2012

SUBJECT: An act to amend the public health law, in relation to the use of ultra violet radiation devices by persons under 18 years of age.

The League of Women Voters of New York State strongly supports the above referenced legislation (S.2917) as a means to decrease the incidence of melanoma, a deadly form of skin cancer.

This legislation would prohibit the use of “tanning beds” by persons under the age of 18. Current law now bans their use by persons under the age of 14. Use of tanning beds in the United States is increasing. The usage rate among teenage girls increases from 7% at age 14, doubles at age 15 and more than doubles *again* by age 17 (*Geller Pediatrics and Cokkinides Pediatrics*.) In July 2009, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) moved tanning devices into its highest cancer risk category “carcinogenic to humans.” The National Cancer Institute (NCI) reports that young women who use tanning beds more than once a month are 55% more likely to develop melanoma. The American Academy of Dermatology, reports that melanoma is the 2nd most common cancer in woman 20-29 years old. Clearly, this legislation will save lives.

Therefore, the League supports this legislation as a means to protect the public’s health by preventing disease and need for expensive medical interventions.

For the above reasons, the League of Women Voters of New York State strongly urges your support of S.2917.