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

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF:

**A.5389-A (Gottfried) / S. 2078-A (Perkins)
New York Health**

DATE: April 22, 2013

SUBJECT: AN ACT to amend the public health law and the state finance law, in relation to establishing New York Health

The League of Women Voters of New York State supports the above referenced legislation (A.5389-A / S2078-A) because close to 2.9 million New Yorkers do not have health insurance and of those that do have health insurance, many are under-insured. Employer-based health plans that provide coverage through private, for-profit insurance companies create a piecemeal coverage system that does not guarantee access to necessary health services. Uninsured and under-insured New Yorkers often forgo necessary health care, which increases their risk of illness and disease.

Under the New York Health plan, the current system of health care coverage would be replaced by a comprehensive, single payer health coverage program financed through existing federal, state and local sources as well as through new, progressive assessments on payroll and non-payroll income. Our current system of inefficient and inadequate health care coverage plans would be replaced with a more equitable program that would save lives and would target New York's scarce healthcare dollars towards providing universal access to high quality, cost-effective care for all residents, regardless of their age, income, health or employment status.

The League of Women Voters of New York State has long supported policies that promote access to a basic level of quality care at an affordable cost for all, while ensuring the efficient and cost-effective delivery of care.

For the above reasons, the League of Women Voters of New York State strongly supports A.5389-A / S.2078-A.