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

**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF:**  
***S.1002 Perkins***

**TO: SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE**  
**DATE: MARCH 10, 2009**

***Subject:*** *A bill that amends the public health law, the real property law, the tax law, the state finance law, the multiple dwelling law, the multiple residence law, the social services law, and the insurance law, in relation to enacting the "childhood lead poisoning prevention and safe housing act of 2009"; and to repeal certain provisions of the public health law.*

***The League of Women Voters of New York State supports this bill that*** would strengthen New York's current laws focusing on primary prevention which is now widely accepted as the key to ending lead poisoning. Primary prevention mechanisms such as creating a loan fund to assist owners in complying with lead-safe requirements; providing for inspections and certification of inspectors and remediators; requiring registration of affected properties; providing tax credits for remediation; the appointment of deputy commissioner of housing and community renewal to oversee provisions; and providing for educational programs relating to lead poisoning and abatement would go a long way toward protecting New York State's children from irreversible damage to their health.

The occurrence of the disease of lead poisoning in children has become a major public health issue, with thousands of children in New York State being actual or potential victims of lead poisoning. Lead poisoning results in the impairment of the ability to concentrate and learn, with the most severe lead poisoning cases resulting in death or mental retardation. This disease also results in increased expenses each year for the State of New York in the form of special education and other education expenses, medical care for lead-poisoned children, and expenditures for delinquent youth and others needing special supervision. The disease of lead poisoning is most prevalent in areas of old and deteriorating housing and primarily rentals, where leaded paint and plaster in a peeling condition is accessible for ingestion by young children and is also most often where lower income and minority families live.

***The League of Women Voters of New York State strongly urges your support of S.1002,*** as it meets League criteria for disease prevention and the promotion of better public health by providing the necessary, comprehensive mechanisms for the elimination of childhood lead poisoning in New York State.