



The League of Women Voters of New York State
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THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
of New York State

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF:
A.8070 Titus

TO: New York State Assembly
DATE: June 20, 2013

Subject: *An act to amend the labor law, in relation to the prohibition of differential pay because of sex (Part A); to amend the executive law, in relation to unlawful discriminatory practices (Part B); to amend the executive law, in relation to the provision of attorney's fees in cases of housing, employment or credit discrimination; to amend the executive law, in relation to the awarding of reasonable attorney's fees (Part C); to amend the executive law in relation to the unlawful discriminatory practice because of familial status (Part D); to amend the real property law and the real property actions and proceedings law, in relation to prohibiting discrimination in housing based upon domestic violence status and establishing a task force to study the impact of source of income on access to housing (Part E); to amend the domestic relations law, the family court act and the criminal procedure law, in relation to the scope of orders of protection and temporary orders of protection (Part F); to amend the family court act and the judiciary law, in relation to establishing a pilot program for the filing of petitions for temporary orders of protection by electronic means and for issuance of such orders ex parte by audio-visual means and to amend the executive law, in relation to review and reports by the chief administrator of the courts (Part G); to amend the penal law, the criminal procedure law, the social services law, the civil practice law and rules, the mental hygiene law, the correction law, the vehicle and traffic law, the public health law, the real property actions and proceedings law, and the real property law, in relation to enacting the "trafficking victims protection and justice act"; to amend the penal law, in relation to prostitution in a school zone; to amend chapter 74 of the laws of 2007 amending the penal law, the criminal procedure law, the correction law, the social services law, and the executive law relating to human trafficking, in relation to extending the interagency task force on human trafficking for four years; and to amend the executive law, in relation to human trafficking awareness (Part H); to amend the executive law, in relation to reasonable accommodation (Part I); and to amend the public health law, in relation to access to reproductive services (Part J)*

The League of Women Voters of New York State strongly supports A.8070, the Women's Equality Act.

The League of Women Voters of New York State has long supported measures to ensure pay equity; to establish equality of opportunity in housing and employment; to end sexual harassment and domestic violence and provide services for victims; and to guarantee the individual's right to make their own reproductive health choices. We also have recently supported efforts to end human trafficking and provide services to victims. LWVNYS vigorously supports the Women's Equality Act, which combines these major efforts to substantially improve the lives of women.

The Women's Equality Act is a crucial step in combatting discrimination, protecting women's rights, and improving the lives of women throughout New York State. New York women face multiple barriers to equality across various facets of life, from housing to employment to healthcare to protection from violence and beyond. This legislation will make significant progress in breaking down these barriers via making it easier to get equal pay for equal work; making all workplaces subject to sexual harassment complaints; allowing for attorney's fees in employment, lending and credit discrimination cases; protecting victims of sex trafficking from prosecution; prohibiting employers from denying work or promotion to workers simply because they have children; protecting victims of domestic violence from housing discrimination; requiring employers to provide reasonable accommodations for pregnancy-related conditions; providing methods for victims of domestic violence to get orders of protection other than having to testify in the presence of their abuser; ensuring reproductive health choices and privacy by making New York's laws consistent with the protections guaranteed by Roe v. Wade.

The Women's Equality Agenda will advance New York's long legacy as a model for equality and fairness by breaking down barriers that perpetuate discrimination and inequality based on gender.

The League of Women Voters of New York State strongly urges your support of A.8070.