

**CITIZENS UNION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS/N.Y.S.
NEW YORK PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP**

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NEWS RELEASE

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**STATEMENT: CIVIC GROUPS APPLAUD SENATE REFORM PACKAGE, URGE
QUICK PASSAGE**

“We commend the State Senators today for reaffirming their commitment they made during the past few months to ending partisan gerrymandering, enacting stronger ethics oversight and enforcement, and bringing about needed fiscal and budget reforms.

There is an inherent conflict of self interest in legislators drawing the districts they represent which is why redistricting reform is needed in the form of an impartial citizens commission guided by strong criteria and clear guidelines. The crime wave of political corruption in state government must also cease which is why New York State needs stronger independent ethics watchdogs and greater disclosure of potential conflicts of interest. Lastly, the state’s finances are a mess and it is important that the state raises its budgetary standards and enhance accountability.

Given the strong support that exists among an overwhelming majority of state senators for these reforms, we look forward to working with legislators in both houses to turn their reform commitments into the policies of the state.”