



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MASSACHUSETTS

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May 11, 2015

Governor Charles D. Baker
Massachusetts State House
Office of the Governor
Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Baker:

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts supports and encourages regular and objective reviews of state regulations to assure that they are clear, relevant and effective in accomplishing their intended results. The League is, however, concerned about the review of regulations required by Executive Order #562.

We feel the provision that Massachusetts regulations “not exceed federal requirements” should be withdrawn. In many instances, particularly in the fields of health care, environmental protection and consumer protection, Massachusetts’ regulations exceed the requirements of federal regulations and, as a result, have clearly benefited the people of Massachusetts. Often, our state’s more comprehensive regulations have served as a model for regulations in other states and for federal regulations. We would hope to continue that leadership and would view federal regulations as a floor rather than a ceiling.

We are also concerned with the provision that all regulations not in compliance with the order sunset on March 31, 2016. Many regulations address complex issues, and a review should be thorough. The League feels strongly that all reviews and proposed changes in regulations must include public hearings and a public comment period to allow input from interested parties and to assure that citizens are aware of pending changes in regulations. It may be extremely difficult for agencies to carry out a review of all regulations in a public manner by that March 31, 2016, deadline, and necessary regulations should not be eliminated simply because of time constraints on the process.

In summary, the League urges you to remove the provision that our state’s regulations not exceed federal guidelines, and take all necessary steps to assure an open review process with public hearings and public comment periods.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Anne S. Borg Marilyn Peterson".

Anne Borg and Marilyn Peterson
Co-Presidents