



**Testimony submitted to Joint Committee on Health Care Financing
in support of
H.1194/S.683 An Act establishing Medicare for all in Massachusetts
By Janice Goodell, LWVMA specialist on health care
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The Leagues of Women Voters of the United States and of Massachusetts have long supported efforts to ensure affordable and equal access to quality health care for all. Massachusetts has already taken significant steps toward assuring that our citizens have quality health care insurance coverage and is now beginning to control the cost of that coverage.

This bill, by establishing a Medicare-type system available to all residents in the state, will provide quality health care at a price that individuals can afford. The plan calls for public financing to provide privately-delivered health care to all Massachusetts residents, including those currently on Medicare and Medicaid. Administrative costs would be minimized, and the amount of money allocated for direct patient care would be increased. Government would be able to use its buying power to obtain better and more cost-effective agreements with pharmaceutical companies, medical equipment manufacturers, and other suppliers. It has been well-documented that the federal Medicare program operates in single-digit percentages for cost-to-care ratios. The health insurance industry, on the other hand, has been and continues to be one of the most highly profitable industries in our nation.

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, representing 47 local Leagues from Cape Cod to the Berkshires, urges the joint committee to report this bill favorably and in a timely manner. As we have noted in past sessions, this bill deserves a public discussion on the floor of the legislature.

Thank you for your consideration.