



**Testimony in support of H.2329/S.1386
An Act Relative to Accelerating Improvements in the Local and Regional Public Health
System to Address Disparities in the Delivery of Public Health Services (SAPHE 2.0)
written by Valentina Pasquantonio, LWVMA Legislative Specialist
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Had this bill been passed 5 years ago the COVID-19 pandemic would have been much easier to manage. From getting accurate information to residents, to accurate data collection and tracing for the state, to vaccines in the arms of all residents (available close to their homes or in their homes for shut-ins), this bill would have improved the public health system pandemic response.

This bill ensures minimum public health standards for every community and increased public health capacity and effectiveness by encouraging municipalities to share services. It also creates a uniform data collection and reporting system and establishes a sustainable state adjunct funding mechanism.

Retaining a system funded only by local tax dollars concretizes the social barriers to health and the inequities of the local public health services we have now. This bill mandates that all laws and public health policies of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts be followed in every community in the Commonwealth, providing public health services to all residents equitably.

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, representing 47 local Leagues from Cape Cod to the Berkshires, believe this bill will provide important local, accurate data to the state DPH and insure equity of public health services among the communities in the Commonwealth. We ask that you favorably report this bill out of committee. Thank you.