



Testimony submitted to the Joint Committee on Public Health
in support of H.2204/S.1334 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)
submitted by Dr. Valentina Pasquantonio and Janice Goodell, LWVMA Legislative Specialists
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The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, representing 44 local Leagues from Cape Cod to the Berkshires, believes SAPHE 2.0 will provide important local, accurate data to the Department of Public Health and ensure equity of public health services among the communities in the Commonwealth. We applaud both chambers of the legislature for passing this bill last session.

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.

We ask that you favorably report this bill out of committee.

Thank you for your consideration.