

SAMPLE LETTER

To: LWV Local and State League Presidents (add your League contact persons)
From: LWV President –or- Healthcare Chair –or- you (whoever is sending this)
Re: Update to LWVUS Healthcare position at the 2022 LWVUS convention. The proposed Concurrence will add language excerpted from LWV of New York State (NYS) Healthcare Positions (2021)

I am urging our Board to please read the request from the LWV of New York State (NYS) to add our League's name in support of bringing the NYS proposed Healthcare Concurrence to the floor at the 2022 LWVUS national convention for discussion and a vote by the delegates. The Concurrence is proposed by the NYS Health Care Update Committee and utilizes positions already adopted by Consensus by the New York league. In addition, they are requesting our League fill out the online LWV-US Program Planning Survey adding the NYS prepared language found below.

The following is their formal request, background information, and directions. Thank you for your attention to this issue. Please consider signing on.

REQUEST—Two-Part PROPOSAL:

Please consider adding your local League as a sponsor of the LWV of New York State's (NYS) proposal to put a Healthcare Concurrence on the 2022 LWVUS Convention program agenda for discussion and vote.

Secondly, consider adding this item to the LWVUS Program Planning Survey on questions noted below. The purpose of the biennial survey is to allow each local League to guide the National League priorities and help determine the 2022 Convention agenda and what gets voted on. In order to make this request clear to LWVUS, please use the specific language provided by LWVNYS that supports putting the Concurrence proposal on the agenda for discussion and a vote.

Note: This does NOT mean your League is concurring with the statement, NOR does it bind your delegates to vote for the Concurrence at the Convention. It simply means that you wish to have the LWVUS Board include it in the recommended program, thereby allowing a floor discussion and vote by the delegates.

If the Concurrence is passed by the delegates at the 2022 LWVUS convention, these elements will be added to the current LWVUS position. It does not change what is there; it simply adds to and updates the position so that it is more relevant to current healthcare needs and situations of today.

BACKGROUND: In 2021, after two years of study and building consensus, LWV of New York updated its Healthcare positions. The new positions do not conflict with the current LWVUS position adopted in 1993, rather they expand it. Now, the New York State Health Care Update Committee proposes to add elements of its new positions to the LWVUS Health Care position through a Concurrence at the June 2022 LWVUS Convention.

The additions will strengthen the ability of all Leagues to advocate on LWVUS program priorities, such as reforms to address widening disparities in health care access and health care outcomes among vulnerable populations, inequities both exacerbated and made more visible by the COVID pandemic.

Find the [Concurrence Statement](#) here, and [more info about it](#) here. For simplicity, a [Summary \(in plain English\)](#) is also available.

Before the proposal can come to the Convention floor for discussion and voting, it must first get on the agenda. Therefore, a request is being made to as many Leagues as we have contacts with,

explaining the Concurrence and soliciting their support for putting the Concurrence on convention agenda.

So far 30 Leagues (from 16 states) have signed on including Leagues from AK, AZ, CA, FL, KS, IN, ME, MA, MI, NM, NY, OR, UT, VT, and WA. LWWNYS seeks to get Local **AND** state Leagues from as many states signed on initially as possible.

MOTION which could be made at your Board or Program Planning meeting:

Motion: The LWW of _____

1. Shall add its name to the list of supporters of the LWW of New York State Concurrence proposal that recommends the LWWUS Program Planning Committee put the proposal for a Healthcare Concurrence on the 2022 LWWUS Convention program agenda as a recommended item thereby allowing a floor discussion and vote by the delegates.
2. When completing the online 2022 LWWUS Program Planning Survey, it will use the specific language provided by LWWNYS that supports putting the proposed Healthcare Concurrence on the agenda for discussion and a vote.

If your board approves a motion like the one above, please let LWWNYS know that they can add your League's name to the list of Leagues supporting the Concurrence **by emailing** [Judy Esterquest@gmail.com](mailto:JudyEsterquest@gmail.com) and LWW.NYS.Healthcare.Update@gmail.com Before Feb 1 will be great, but anytime until May 1 will still be good. It does not mean committing your delegates to vote for it.

FIND THE ONLINE SURVEY AT: <http://s.alchemer.com/s3/2021-Program-Planning-Survey>

DIRECTIONS: Each League may complete the **LWWUS Program Planning survey** once (use link provided— the survey will not be sent to you) and **IT MAY TIME OUT** while you are filling in the answers. Because of that fact, the LWWUS advises you to draft all your answers in advance of filling out the actual survey so you can copy/paste them rapidly into the online survey form. Submission deadline: March 1, 2022. Email questions: progplan@lww.org

Note: **Question numbers may change due to** how you answer particular questions in the survey.

Question 7 or 9. "Would you like to recommend another program item, in addition to or instead of the Campaign for Making Democracy Work?" **"Yes"**

Question 10 or 12. "Please provide a statement (300 words or less) describing the scope of your recommendation including a description of the issue area, its importance in advancing the League's mission as well as resources needed to carry out the recommendation."

The specific language LWWNYS requests be added to one answer box on the online survey:

We support including the "Proposal for Concurrence at the LWWUS Convention: Adding Language Excerpted from the 2021 LWWNYS Positions on Healthcare and Financing Healthcare" on the agenda for discussion and voting as a US Board recommended item for program consideration at Convention.

Concurring with this LWWNYS language at Convention will update the LWWUS Healthcare Position without requiring any outlay of resources by either local or state Leagues or LWWUS. It will support our DEI efforts by allowing Leagues to support improvement to our health care system that will benefit poor, BIPOC, rural, and other socially and economically disadvantaged residents. Access to quality health care is a concern for a majority of Americans. [Concurrence Statement](#)

If you have any questions about the proposed Concurrence or the procedure presented, please contact **(add your contact info here or put Email: LWW.NYS.Healthcare.Update@gmail.com)**

Thank you for your help. Quality, accessible healthcare is such an important and timely issue to address. Together we can make a positive difference in updating this 30-year old position to tackle the growing needs of today.

Find Out More:

- **Link to Concurrence Statement:**
<https://pwm.tempurl.host/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Statement-Proposed-Concurrence-with-LWVNYS-Healthcare.pdf>
- **NYS Full Study Materials** (contain LWVUS [1993] and LWVNYS [2021] positions in their entirety) & more — [on LWVNYS website](https://lwvny.org/programs-studies/) <https://lwvny.org/programs-studies/>
- **Pro/Con Considerations & more** — [on LWVPWM website](https://pwm.tempurl.host/hc-concurrence/)
<https://pwm.tempurl.host/hc-concurrence/>

For whoever fills out the survey, these links may be of help.

- **PDF Sample Survey Questions** in Program Planning Guide (so you can plan survey answers in advance of starting the online form): [https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2021-10/Program Planning Leaders Guide.pdf](https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2021-10/Program%20Planning%20Leaders%20Guide.pdf)
- **Online-only Survey:** <http://s.alchemer.com/s3/2021-Program-Planning-Survey>
- **LWV-US Advice on program planning:** [Guide to LWVUS 2021-22 Program Planning](#)