



**HEALTHY
PEOPLE**



**HEALTHY
DEMOCRACY**

May 10, 2022

LWV Health Care Reform for the US Caucus newsletter

The HCR4US campaign to update the LWVUS Health Care position gets a “98”!

Yes, 98 Leagues told LWVUS they wanted the New York State League Concurrence on the National Convention agenda in June. They heard us. The Concurrence will be on the agenda for discussion and a vote.

What is the NYS Concurrence? In 2019-2021 LWVNY did the rigorous research required to update its state health care positions. The new positions adopted in Spring 2021 now provide the springboard to bring their proposals to the entire League. In Fall 2021, with help and encouragement from HCR4US, LWVNY approved moving forward with a nationwide campaign to place a concurrence with the NYS updates on the Convention agenda.

Why update the LWVUS Health Care Position?

The goals of the current LWVUS health care position are strong. They articulate our aspiration for health care that is

- Accessible — EVERYONE is covered
- Equitable — EVERYONE gets quality care
- Affordable — NO ONE avoids care due to cost

Both LWVUS and NYS "favor a national program paid for by general taxes." However, changes in US health and health care over the 30 years since the LWVUS position was written have made these goals more challenging. Of the eleven wealthiest nations, the United States ranks first in high cost and **last** on access to care, administrative efficiency, equity, and health outcomes.

The NYS Concurrence addresses all these issues. It will help state and local Leagues advocate for better health policies, in that it

1. Promotes safe staffing
2. Calls for public participation and transparent administration
3. Empowers patients, families, and providers in making medical decisions
4. Requires evidence-based cost control methods that do not worsen disparities
5. Expands delivery options (such as telemedicine)
6. Separates health care access from employment—and MORE

In this issue:

- In Case You Missed it
- About the Newsletter
- Upcoming Events
- Resources and Allies

Two PNHP medical interns will be co-presenters at our caucus...a wonderful opportunity to discover the motivations and aspirations of this young generation.

BEFORE convention: promote health care reform to strengthen our democracy and increase equity

HCR4US is working hard to weave Health Care Reform **throughout** at this hybrid convention: 3 Caucuses, 2 Plenaries, 1 Table in the “Experience Hall,” and Pre-convention activities in our home states. More convention details next month. The challenge now is to come up with pre-convention activities in your home state to build understanding and support for the concurrence.

- Who are the delegates? How do you reach out to them?
- Can you get them to tell you what they know, or don’t know?
- Is there a local issue that could illustrate how the concurrence could help you? For example, having the Concurrence in place could have helped when Massachusetts voters defeated a ballot question about safe staffing, leaving us with the same unsafe conditions that prompted the ballot.

To help respond to the questions or concerns of people in your state, feel free to pick and choose from the materials on the Toolkit: Healthcare Concurrence 2022, Feb. 5 LWV-CO Health Care Committee Educational webinar, and the Digital Equity Concurrence. This can all be found on the HCR4US Toolkit:

<https://lwvhealthcarereform.org/calling-all/>

NEXT MEETING

Sunday, May 22

8:00 p.m. ET
Register at

<https://tinyurl.com/May22-Zm>

Tentative Agenda:
Intros for New Attendees
National Convention
(Concurrence &
Caucus Preparations)
Newsletter
Behavioral Health
Break-out Sessions

Upcoming

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- May 11 Convention Caucus
- May 18 Convention Caucus
- May 18 Behavioral Health Caucus Committee
- June 9 Newsletter Editorial/Advisory Board

PRESENTATIONS

- May 12 **Senator Bernie Sanders introduces new M4A bill**
<https://www.budget.senate.gov/hearings/medicare-for-all-protecting-health-saving-lives-saving-money>
- May 23 **“Protect Medicare: Turning up the heat on REACH and DCEs** <https://pnhp.salsalabs.org/REACHlaunchwebinar/index.html> The dangers of private equity interfering with the patient-doctor relationship, what Congress has done, and what we should all plan to do to protect our seniors. Speakers: PNHP, Reps. Jayapal, Porter, Pocan, Schakowsky.

Networking

- Physicians for a National Health Program**
<https://pnhp.org/>
- Students for a Nat’l Health Program (SNaHP)**
<https://www.facebook.com/snhp1/>
- National Nurses United**
<https://www.nationalnursesunited.org>
- Medicare for All Resolutions**
<https://www.medicare4allresolutions.org>
- Poor Peoples Campaign**
<https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org>

Websites

HCR4US Toolkit: LWVhealthcarereform.org

HCR4US Youtube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/c/LWVHealthCareReform>

HCR4US Web-Contact Form:
tinyurl.com/Contact-LWV-HCR-4US

HCR4US Google Drive:
<https://tinyurl.com/HCR4US-Minutes-Materials>

HCR4US Google Group:
<https://groups.google.com/g/lwvus4healthreform>

HCR4US: *Dedicated to educating and mobilizing League members to work toward legislation that enacts the goals of our LWVUS health care position*
Newsletter Committee: Barbara Pearson, Becky White, Jon Li, Candy Birch

Read All About It in Our New Newsletter

Published mid-month, this newsletter’s goal is to highlight major issues, questions, and concerns within our network and beyond. For several years, the HCR4US group has been meeting monthly. Our Zoom meetings, held on the fourth Sunday of the month, allow members to exchange information, generate ideas, and form relationships with League health care colleagues across the nation.

Please suggest material for Taking Action, In Case You Missed It, Presentations, Upcoming, etc. at tinyurl.com/HCR4US-newsletter-Input. We welcome more members to the editorial board.

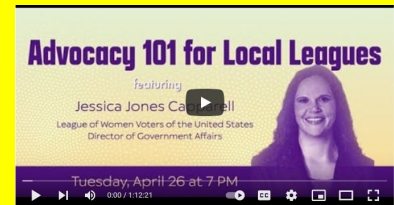
Behavioral Health Affinity Group:

According to a recent U.S. Surgeon General’s Report (<https://bit.ly/3KVEy9I>) declares adolescents, twice as many females as males, are crying out for help. In 2020, an estimated 4.1 million teens 12—17 or 17% of the U.S. adolescent population experienced a major depressive episode. It has only gotten worse since the beginning of the pandemic. Stay tuned for a regular report on what Leagues have been doing or are planning to do. What is your League doing?

In Case You Missed It



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hsFjm3r_yJ8



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8wui6llje18>

Take Action

- Want to work on getting LWV Federal Action on Health Care exploring the use of the Federal Action Request Form? Contact Hank Abrons, habrons@gmail.com
- Want to discuss having “health care conversations” with conservatives? Contact Jan Phillips (LaPlata CO) Janp@sofcorp.com or Rob Luisana (Piedmont Triad, NC). rluisana@lfs49.com



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