

**BACKGROUND HISTORY OF the LWV Health Care Reform
Interest Group (HCR4US)
2005 to the Present**

"Health Care Reform for the US" (HCR4US) is a network of League members from around the country whose purpose is to advance the League's position on health care as articulated in the LWVUS policy book "Impact on Issues." The network encourages education and action by local and state Leagues as well as advocacy to the national League to pursue "more equitable distribution of [health] services for all Americans," consistent with the LWVUS Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion mission.

In 2005, with help from the national Board and staff, founding member Linda Mahan (CO) and others League members established a nationwide mailing list and named the new network HCR4US. The group's first project was the first LWV Healthcare Caucus at the 2006 national Convention, and it has presented at least one caucus or workshop at each convention since then. It especially supports resolutions and actions for **Improved Medicare for All**, as the program most closely aligned with the League's official goals. In 2015, after an LWV Study of Behavioral Health, LWVCO updated their state position to include behavior health and then presented the position to the 2016 national convention, where it was adopted by concurrence.

Network members were first linked in person at conventions and by the League-sponsored email list. They have since transitioned to conference calls and Zoom-type teleconferencing. Leadership within the group is shared. Since 2016, the network has maintained a Google Group, and a monthly teleconference focused on Single Payer/M4A and other healthcare issues. They also host occasional guest speakers, such as activist-author Wendell Potter, state Senator Jeanne Nicholson (CO), PNHP officer Dr. Claudia Fegan, and UNC professor Ciara Zachary.

In 2019 as HCR4US expanded, it was recognized on the LWVUS Management site as "a coalition of League leaders from around the country," and its resources on health care advocacy were made available through the Management website <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/advocacy/toolkit-health-care>. In 2021, after being contacted by LWVUS leadership, network leaders met with LWVUS' Jessica Jones Capparell to provide a fuller picture of the activities and resources of the group. In 2023, LWVUS recognized a new level of cross-League cooperation in three "watchdog" issues--Health Care Reform, Climate, and Immigration. The LWVUS Governance Committee began ironing out a process by which the three advocacy groups could be more fully integrated into the League as official Interest Groups and a staff Liaison was assigned to the groups. Two points of contact were designated for LWVUS business, Linda Mahan (CO) and Ruth Harenchar (FL). As of December 2024, LWVUS has not officially launched the Interest Groups, but all three are operating according to the guidelines explained to them thus far.

The HCR4US network encompasses members in 45 states. Information about the League network and improved Medicare for All can be found on its Healthcare Toolkit <https://lwvhealthcarereform.org> and its [Youtube channel](#). It had a [Twitter feed](#) until the platform changed. (The Toolkit can also be accessed directly from the League Management site <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/mission-impact-tools/other-issues-tools> .

As of December 2024, HCR4US had approximately 800 League members on the mailing list from the 45 states listed on the Toolkit and about 150 active participants on the monthly Zoom calls and other activities such as the Rural Affairs Caucus, a Tutorials committee, and education

and advocacy actions with other state and national coalitions for healthcare reform.

We welcome ideas, resources, successes, challenges, and questions. To contact the group or join it, please use the HCR4US Contact webform <https://tinyurl.com/Contact-LWV-HCR-4US> to be put in touch with the Google Group moderators Linda Mahan (Larimer Cty CO) or Akkana Peck (Los Alamos (NM) and meeting coordinator Jean Hopkins (VT).

States represented as of 5/2021 include:

Alabama
Alaska
Arizona
California
Colorado
CT
DE
DC
Florida
Georgia
Idaho
Illinois
Indiana
Iowa

Kansas
Kentucky
Louisiana
Maryland
Maine
Massachusetts
Michigan
Minnesota
Missouri
Montana
Nebraska

Nevada
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New Mexico
New York
North Carolina
Pennsylvania
Ohio
Oregon
Pennsylvania
S Carolina
Tennessee
Texas
Utah
Vermont
Virginia
Washington
WV,
WI,WY

LMahan/BPearson. May2021