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Testimony in support of HB 257 for House Health and Human Development Committee hearing on January 15, 2020

The League of Women Voters of Delaware strongly supports HB 257. We have testified or submitted testimony to both the recent OMB hearing and last year's JFC hearings in support of using the budget process to address the state's increasing shortage of primary care providers. Access to quality primary care is considered by most experts to be the most effective way to improve population health and to control the total cost of health care.

The primary care provider shortage is not exclusive to Delaware. The provision of primary care is not reimbursed as well as some of the specialties and many students, looking at high student debt loads and evaluating their options, decide it is not feasible for them. We believe this bill is an innovative step toward addressing this issue which is likely to get worse without intervention.

Joann Hasse, Health Care chair,
League of Women Voters of Delaware