



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DELAWARE**

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PRESENTATION TO  
THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
ON THE FY 21 BUDGET REQUEST  
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
NOVEMBER 2019

I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Delaware. Although we support most of the programs under the DHSS budget, I will address just two.

We have, and continue, to strongly support the DIMER/DIDER programs. We believe they are the best and most cost effective way in which Delaware can provide medical and dental education opportunities for its citizens. In addition, these programs offer infrastructure connections which are essential, though frequently unrecognized, elements of the medical provider and advanced medical education “system” in this state.

As shown in the first report of the Primary Care Collaborative, Delaware has a rapidly 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.

We applaud the effort in this budget cycle to encourage primary care physicians to come to/stay in Delaware by beginning a student loan repayment program focused on this very important segment of providers. We urge you to continue to use the budget process as an essential part of the effort to increase the supply of Primary Care Providers in Delaware.

We thank you also for addressing a need for which the League has been advocating for many budget cycles: offering dental care for adults on Medicaid. We believe dental care is a real part of adequate medical care since untended dental problems can lead to much more expensive problems in other parts of the body