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**Testimony to the House Health and Human Development Committee
January 19, 2021**

I ask, on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Delaware, that you vote **HB 48** out of committee for consideration by the full House. It is a measure that aligns with our policy of supporting access to health care for all.

As shown in a 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 health care experts to be the most effective way to improve population health and control the total cost of health care. We applaud the effort embodied in HB 48 to encourage medical professionals to pursue the primary care field and come to Delaware and work in underserved areas.

One can certainly understand why medical students, burdened with huge student loans, choose more lucrative specialties. Incentives to encourage them to choose primary care seem to be a very logical way to address our shortage.

An initiative to increase the supply of primary care professionals is also cost effective. True, this measure has a cost, but it is more than offset by improving the health care that will be provided – especially in underserved areas, which this measure singles out. Spending money on primary care can reduce the need for more expensive medical procedures in the long run.

We urge your support of HB 48. Thank you.