



## **Senate Education and Health – January 21, 2025**

### **HJ1 and SJ247 (Constitutional Amendment)- same testimony**

The LWV of Virginia supports HJ1 (SJ247). Every Virginian deserves the freedom to make personal healthcare decisions without government interference. These decisions include those related to comprehensive reproductive healthcare – prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, contraception, abortion care, miscarriage management and fertility care. HJ1 will guarantee that the state cannot deny or interfere with an individual's reproductive freedom in their most personal healthcare decisions. Protecting reproductive freedom through a constitutional amendment ensures that reproductive decisions remain beyond arbitrary government control, thus securing reproductive healthcare and rights for all Virginians now and for future generations.

### **SB740 Unconscious Bias and Cultural Competency – same as HB1649**

The League of Women Voters of Virginia supports SB740. Each year in the United States, hundreds of people die during pregnancy or in the year after and thousands more have unexpected outcomes of labor and delivery with serious short- or long-term health consequences. Over 80% of these deaths are preventable. We know that Black maternal mortality rates are roughly three times as high as rates for White individuals who are pregnant. One important way to improve this disparity is to identify and address unconscious bias in healthcare. We believe this bill will only help to improve medical outcomes of pregnancy and childbirth and ensure that all Virginians can feel heard and seen by the medical professionals they are

seeking care from.

**SB1105 – Right to contraception** (same HB1716)

The League of Women Voters of Virginia supports SB1105. We believe that contraceptives should be accessible to all. This bill assures individuals the right to obtain and use contraceptives and protects health care providers and others who assist in providing contraceptives. Most importantly it assures that the Commonwealth and localities cannot interfere with this guaranteed access to contraception. Contraception is critical to management of a number of health conditions beyond preventing pregnancy. We urge you to support SB1105.