



## **A Look at Why Health Insurance Reform Must Happen** **Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Oak Park and River Forest**

**with John Bouman, president and policy expert**  
**from the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law**

The rule of the evening is Civility and Respect for others. People came to this meeting hoping to gain further information and increase their understanding. That can be accomplished only in an atmosphere of calm respect. The League appreciates your cooperation.

### **League of Women Voters Health Care Position**

The League believes that quality, affordable health care should be available to all U.S. residents. Other U.S. health care policy goals should include the equitable distribution of services, efficient and economical delivery of care, advancement of medical research and technology, and a reasonable total national expenditure level for health care. Furthermore, the League believes that all Americans should have access to a basic level of care that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute care, long-term care and mental health care.

### **Here are 2 easy ways to get involved now.**

1. **Call Senator Durbin and Senator Burris at 202-224-3121.**  
**Tell them that the time for reform is now.** For more on this issue, or to contact your Senators by email, go to [www.lwv.org/healthcareaction](http://www.lwv.org/healthcareaction).
2. **Support the League in the fight for comprehensive, affordable health care for all Americans.** *Join the League of Women Voters in making democracy work.*  
For almost 90 years, League members across the country have come together to make a difference in their communities and at the national level, making the League of Women Voters

**The League of Women Voters**, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. As a nonpartisan organization, the League supports no political party and no political candidates. Membership in the League is open to any citizen over the age of 18, regardless of gender. Visit us at [www.lwvoprf.org](http://www.lwvoprf.org) or <http://www.lwv.org>.

one of the most respected and effective organizations in the country.

**Special thanks:** To the Oak Park Arms staff and administration, to the speaker, to tonight's attentive audience, and to the League members who made this event possible.

## **League of Women Voters Statement on the Public Option**

On October 13, 2009, national League of Women Voters President Mary G. Wilson issued the following statement on the Senate Finance Committee's passage of its version of health care reform:

"The League recognizes that the Senate Finance Committee has taken a critical step in the battle for health care reform today, overcoming one of the major roadblocks to final passage.

"While we are disappointed that the final Finance Committee bill does not include a public option element, the committee's vote today paves the way for meaningful Senate action, and we remain optimistic that the legislation that will ultimately reach the President's desk will include a public option.

"As they move forward, Senators must recognize the fact that we can no longer afford to let special interests and nay-sayers stand in the way of reform.

"Our current health care system is endangering our economy and our health, and we appreciate the work of the committee in moving forward on health care reform legislation, allowing it to be considered by the full Senate. However, Congress needs to pass comprehensive health care reform that includes the public option.

"The public option would increase consumer choice and lower health care costs; it will make it possible for Americans who cannot obtain coverage through traditional employer-sponsored plans to find coverage at a reasonable cost.

"As a nation, we are spending \$1 out of every \$6 we earn on health care. Offering everyone the choice of a government administered health insurance plan like Medicare that would compete with private health insurance plans is key to lowering costs and providing real choice to consumers."