

Health Care
2009 Issues Briefing
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There is a new urgency to work for League's long-held comprehensive Health Care position (1993). As LWVUS President Mary Wilson writes in The National Voter, (October 2008) in a "Letter to the Next President, "America's health care status is endangering our economy and our health." Community Education materials on expanding health coverage will be coming out this spring from National.

Unfortunately in Illinois, the Health Care Justice Law of 2004, supported by League, was not implemented. A final report and recommendations from the Adequate Health Care Task Force was presented to the Governor and members of the Illinois General Assembly two years ago (full text (www.idph.state.il.us/hcja/index.htm)). Enabling legislation, Senate Bill 5, languished and will likely expire at the third reading deadline this January.

LWVIL worked in Coalition with the Campaign for Better Health Care (www.cbhconline.org) to pass the law, and testified at Task Force hearings around the State. We will work with CBHC on renewed efforts to put the recommendations of the Task Force on the legislative agenda. As new strategies become clear, information will be sent on to you about advocacy and meetings planned in legislative districts.

For Legislative Interviews: Tell your Senators and Representatives that action on Health Care is urgent. They need to hear it from the Grassroots.

Please contact me with questions, ideas at issues@lwwil.org.