League of Women Voters
New Hampshire

February 4, 2015

Rep. Kathleen Hoelzel, Chair
House Election Law Committee
Re: HB 620-FN, An act relative to the Interstate Voter Registration Crosscheck Program.

Dear Chairman Hoelzel and members of the committee:

The League of Women Voters NH is a nonpartisan organization that works to encourage citizens to take an interest in politics and to vote. After study by its members, the League often advocates for legislation and public policies that serve the public interest.

The League supports keeping our voter database up-to-date but we oppose HB 620-FN because the Interstate Voter Registration Crosscheck Program is based on poor methodology, does not adequately safeguard the rights of qualified voters, and has such poor results that some states, including Florida, have dropped out of the program.

New Hampshire currently works with other New England states to share voter registration information. Most of New Hampshire's in and out migration is with the other New England states. We recommend a study of this arrangement to see how it is working and how it could be improved before moving on to another program with states that have little interaction with New Hampshire in terms of migration patterns.

We're also concerned because the Interstate Voter Registration Crosscheck Program was created and is controlled by partisan elected officials. There are studies and pilot interstate voter registration crosscheck programs that are being done on a nonpartisan basis. If the legislature wishes to expand crosschecks beyond New England it should look to nonpartisan programs.

The League of Women Voters NH urges the House Election Law Committee to ITL HB 620-FN.

Thank you,

Liz Tentarelli, co-president
Sally Davis, co-president
Joan Flood Ashwell, election law specialist
League of Women Voters NH