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To chair David Cote and House Election Law Committee members

From Liz Tentarelli, president, League of Women Voters NH LWVNewHampshire@gmail.com

Re **SB 7 establishing the SMART voter registration Act**

The League of Women Voters has been supporting voting rights for 99 years. This year we urge you to **support SB 7**, which shores up New Hampshire citizens' right to vote by offering another way to register.

Although the "A" in SMART stands for "accurate" it also stands for "accessible."

Access to voting can be a challenge for some, because right now going to the town clerk's office is the typical process to register. Yes, one can register during a one-hour Supervisors of the Checklist meeting in advance of the election—provided you know about it. And one can register at the polls, which often involves time spent waiting in line for both registration and casting a ballot. For **people who work long hours**, this is a deterrent to voting. Some people can't get to the town clerk's office. This is **especially true in rural areas**, where the town clerk is a part-time position and may not offer weekend or evening hours.

Military families moving around have registration issues that would be solved by more access. Updating addresses online as they get stationed in a new place would make their voter registration both easier and more accurate. And if they register when they get a new driver's license, it's a two-for-one deal.

Senior citizens have issues with transportation and mobility. Registration procedures that would help them include registering at the DMV after they move or when they opt for a non-driver ID card in later years. This is a group that very much wants to vote, but when retirement includes moving from town to town or state to state, registration that is accessible is important.

Finally, to make voting accessible to the generation least likely to vote, the **18-24 year olds**, we have to find ways to fit their lives. They seem to be willing to go to the DMV to get a drivers' license, but I know of no young people who regard a physical visit to the town clerk as part of their lives. They shop online, they communicate online, they socialize online. This bill would let them register when they get a driver's license and be done. When they graduate, get that first job and car and move (we hope to NH), we want them to become voters. We need our young people to participate in civic life; this bill will help achieve that by making voter registration accessible.
