

LWVA Health Care Committee Annual Report  
(May 2016 – May 2017)  
Submitted by Jackie Wolf, Chair

For more than a dozen years, Health Care Committee members have presented programs and provided information on single payer health care for Massachusetts all around the Pioneer Valley and into the Statehouse. That work became more intense after this fall's Presidential election and the rise of Republican Congress. The turmoil around overturning or defunding the Affordable Care Act has made people less complacent about health insurance and health care costs.

Calls for presentations of the League's single payer program have come in from Southbridge, Groton, Springfield, Greenfield, Plainfield, Northampton and Worthington. What is new about these requests is that only one is from a League. The other programs were to groups that have sprung into action to support what is generally considered "progressive legislation," e.g., Pathways to Justice, Valley Action Network, Rise Up, the Indivisibles, and Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution.

It is rewarding to know our preparation has paid off; we are ready – and able – to present a single payer program at practically a day's notice!

The interest in single payer for Massachusetts building around the Commonwealth is making its way to the halls of the Statehouse. Planning is underway for a large conference on single payer in Boston, this fall, timed to coincide with hearings on the single payer bills before the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing. When you see League alerts to contact our Legislators, please follow through.

In closing, it should be said that our carefully planned "Sing into Spring" family concert to benefit the single payer effort was not too successful. Though the Brubaker's and the Rabin's and three other families with children who came all had a good time – it was a small audience. We do, however, want to thank all League members – particularly Susan Millinger and Trish Farrington who helped with publicity. Everyone did a good job and we appreciate it.