

## LWV Ohio Statehouse Day – March 19, 2013

### LWVO Lobbyist Report

#### Health Care Issues in Ohio

*Prepared by Danielle Smith*

#### Affordable Care Act

- Health Insurance Exchanges -- Governor Kasich has decided to go with a federally run exchange which means that the vast majority of decisions regarding its management will be made by the Federal Government.
- Medicaid Expansion -- Governor Kasich's budget was released on February 4<sup>th</sup> and contained his recommendation of expanding Medicaid for Ohioans below 138% of the federal poverty level. The budget will now go through the Ohio legislative process which will require advocacy action to retain Medicaid expansion in the budget.

#### FY 14-15 Budget- As of February 8, 2013

- Home and Community Based Services -- The Executive Budget increases Medicaid payments related to home and community based long-term services and supports by \$30.8 million
- Nursing Home Reimbursement -- The last biennial budget enacted several reforms related to nursing facilities. It completed the transition from a cost-based Medicaid payment system to a price based system. Price based systems reward efficiency by paying for fixed costs which resulted in reduced nursing facility rates 5.8 percent on average in 2012. The current proposed budget from the Governor would make only modest adjustments in how nursing homes are paid.
- Changes to Ohio's Medicaid Programs -- Dual Eligible Ohioans -- The Ohio Office of Health Transformation has submitted a proposal to better integrate care and funding for people who are dual eligible for Medicaid and Medicare. The proposal has not yet been accepted by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services so implementation is delayed.

#### Organizations

- The League of Women Voters is represented on the **Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage** coalition which unites the consumer voice with the goal of achieving affordable, high quality care for all. Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage (OCHC) combines the forces of health care consumers and represents hundreds of thousands of consumer voices. (<http://www.ohioconsumersforhealth.org/>)
- The League of Women Voters is represented on **Advocates for Ohio's Future**. Advocates for Ohio's Future works to maintain vital public services — health, human services, and early care & education — at a level that meets people's basic needs and protects our most vulnerable populations. (<http://www.advocatesforohio.org/>)