



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF FLORIDA

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### **New Reports on Health Care Crisis facing Florida**

**Tallahassee, Fla.** -- On January 20, 2016, The League of Women Voters of Florida hosted a media teleconference with Florida Legal Services (FLS) to discuss FLS' new in-depth report that explains the background, current status, and future changes to Florida's Medicaid safety-net funding streams.

A companion report pertains to the negative impact on Miami-Dade County's local economy as a result of scheduled funding reductions, as well as the positive financial impact on local health care providers if federal expansion dollars are accepted to purchase coverage for uninsured adults.

"By neglecting to accept federal funding, the Governor and Legislature have passed the buck to Florida counties and left Florida's citizens holding the bag" said **Pamela Goodman**, LWVF President. "It is irresponsible and morally reprehensible to allow this crisis to continue. The people of Florida deserve better."

This issue is particularly critical in Miami-Dade County, which has the largest number of low-income uninsured in the state and the largest number of individuals eligible for federal expansion funding. Jackson Memorial Hospital receives the largest amount of state and federal Medicaid funding in Florida. In spite of that, Jackson is still unable to meet the needs of the almost 170,000 low income county residents who would be eligible for health insurance paid for almost entirely by the federal government.

"We hope FLS' new reports will further inform Floridians on this issue and shine a light on the obvious economic and ethical reasons to extend coverage," Goodman concluded.

Copies of the reports and a recording of the call are available at [TheFloridaVoter.Org](http://TheFloridaVoter.Org)

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The League of Women Voters of Florida, a nonpartisan political organization,

encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. For more information, please visit the League's website at: [www.TheFloridaVoter.org](http://www.TheFloridaVoter.org).