



League of Women Voters of Arizona

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December 5, 2013

Chairman Darrell Issa
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Issa:

In 1993, the members of League of Women Voters throughout the country adopted a position calling for a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost to be available to all U.S. residents. Over the past 20 years, we have lobbied hard for passage of comprehensive health care reform and celebrated when the Affordable Care Act (ACA) passed Congress, was signed into law by President Obama and upheld by the Supreme Court.

Here in Arizona, The League of Women Voters of Arizona has partnered with many healthcare and advocacy groups across the state to support implementation of the ACA. The League of Women Voters of Arizona take this position because the Affordable Care Act will provide the 82% of Arizonans who have insurance more choices and more coverage than ever before. Equally important, the 948,000 citizens who don't have coverage now have unprecedented access to such. Thus far, 69,000 young adults have gained coverage; and women are no longer unfairly charged higher premiums. Therefore, the League of Women Voters of Arizona urges continued efforts to support the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

Regarding the hearing being held by Rep. Darrell Issa, Chair of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, tomorrow, December 6, 2013 in Apache Junction, AZ, the League of Women Voters of Arizona has grave concerns because it seems to violate the basic principles of democracy and public participation that the League of Women Voters was founded in 1920 to support and for which we continue to work for the past almost 100 years. For a committee hearing to adhere to such basic principles, it should be widely advertised in all parts of the affected state or community. As it appears that Rep. Issa will hold only this one hearing in Arizona, he should have ensured that residents of the entire area received notice of such well in advance. He should also have provided a procedure whereby those who can't attend could submit comments, especially because it is being held at 10 a.m. on a Friday, a time at which many people are working. Finally, from the limited information the League of Women Voters of Arizona has been able to obtain about this hearing, it appears that Rep. Issa will not be allowing a wide range of opinions to be expressed. Therefore, we believe

this hearing does not meet the criteria that League of Women Voters supports in terms of encouraging public participation.

Sincerely,

Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer

Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer
President, League of Women Voters of Arizona

cc: Representative Elijah E. Cummings,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
Valerie Ellien, LWVAZ Health Care Director
Betsey Lawson, LWVUS Program Director