



295 Washington Avenue, suite 2

Hamden, CT 06518-3025

203-288-7996 [lwwct@lwwct.org](mailto:lwwct@lwwct.org) [www.lwwct.org](http://www.lwwct.org)

**Appropriations Committee**  
March 26, 2021 Public Hearing

Testimony Submitted by Carol Reimers, President, and Bianca Shinn,  
Board Member, League of Women Voters of CT

**Support for: HB 6662 DECLARING RACISM AS A PUBLIC  
HEALTH CRISIS AND ESTABLISHING THE COMMISSION ON  
RACIAL EQUITY IN PUBLIC HEALTH.**

This year the League of Women Voters of Connecticut is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy.

We are proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public.

The national League of Women Voters and the League of Women Voters of Connecticut are fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organizations' current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are necessary because of the persistent racism in our very flawed but beloved country.

Nothing could be more central to the health of our democracy than the health of its voters and all within its borders. Over the past year our society has had to confront the pandemic and its effect on people of color, continued police violence against unarmed Black civilians, and the persistence of different outcomes in such areas as Maternal Mortality, Asthma, Food Insecurity, and Diabetes. It is vital that Connecticut address these public health issues directly and unflinchingly, as outlined in this bill.

*The League of Women Voters of Connecticut supports HB 6662 and urges this committee to send it to the House and Senate for a full vote.*