



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF MARYLAND, INC.**

**TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT  
OPERATIONS**

**HB 217 OPEN MEETINGS ACT-REQUIREMENTS FOR PROVIDING AGENDAS**

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

**BY: BARBARA SCHNACKENBERG AND NANCY SORENG CO-PRESIDENTS**

**DATE: FEBRUARY 24, 2016**

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that democratic government depends upon informed and active participation in government and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate advance notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible. This has been a principle of the League since our founding in 1919.

We believe that informing citizens of the subjects to be addressed in a meeting provides them the information needed to know whether their attendance at the meeting is relevant to their interests and concerns. Such information in addition to the date, time and place of the meeting of a public body encourages active citizen participation in their government and gives the citizen the opportunity to prepare for their direct participation in the proceedings, as appropriate.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report on this legislation.