

An Act Relative to Equitable Coverage in Disability Policies - HD 1383

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The League of Women Voters urges you to support “An Act Relative to Equitable Coverage in Disability Policies” - HD 1383.

Lead Sponsors: Rep. Ruth Balsler and Rep. Alice Wolf

Background: When women have a non-job-related disability, they, like men, are dependent on disability insurance for income replacement. Currently, disability insurance is classified by sex, with women paying more than men for the same benefits and sometimes with other terms and conditions attached, such as pregnancy.

All job-related accidents and illnesses are covered by Workers Compensation Insurance, which all employers are required to purchase, that is gender neutral, thereby fulfilling the promise of the state’s Equal Rights Amendment that state laws will treat men and women equally.

Talking Points:

- Social Security disability benefits are gender neutral.
- Workers Compensation Insurance benefits are gender neutral.
- This bill will have no negative impact on the state budget. In fact, passage of this bill would help reduce the number of women who need state aid when they have a non-job-related disability.
- Women, and their families, would benefit with more economic security when they have a disability.