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January 13, 2021

To: Senator Robert Clements, Chair, and members of the Rules Committee

Re: Rule Change #4 – Add racial impact statements to legislative bills

Dear Senator Clements and members of the committee:

The League of Women Voters advocates to secure equal rights and opportunity for all. Senator Vargas has proposed Rule Change #4 to add racial impact statements to legislative bills. It would give lawmakers the opportunity to further weigh legislation by considering ramifications that may not be apparent. This rule change would help to raise awareness and to avoid inadvertent racial discrimination.

We applaud the committee on its efforts to improve the smooth and fair functioning of the legislature's rules process.

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Sincerely,

Carol Dennison
Co-Director, Social Policy
LWVNE

Linda Duckworth
Co-President
LWVNE