



## The League of Women Voters of Delaware

**The League supports Passage of HB 299, which would amend the Delaware Constitution to add the following language: *“No person shall be denied equal rights under the law. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged on account of the sex of the individual.”***

**This aligns with the League’s position in support of equal rights and equal opportunity for all.**

**Why is this needed:** Delaware’s Constitution does not enunciate a guarantee of equality. While the federal Constitution contains an “equal protection” proviso, our state should proclaim its own values and principles. We need to openly declare that equality is a core value.

And it is not enough that the General Assembly has passed specific state statutes prohibiting various forms of discrimination. These laws are good, but they do not have the same status as a pronouncement in our Constitution’s “Bill of Rights” that equality is a fundamentally guaranteed constitutional right in our state.

**Anticipated Results of such a Constitutional Amendment:** Passing HB 299 would lay down a foundation to ensure that in Delaware both women and men are protected from sex stereotyping and therefore from laws that might favor one sex over the other, including those that make assumptions about mothers and fathers and their roles, sometimes putting fathers at a disadvantage.

We seek equality for all – not preferential treatment for women or **any** group. We need Delaware to be a state where all citizens are treated as individuals, with respect and dignity. We urge your support of HB 299.