August 1, 2019

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I am writing on behalf of the 48 Leagues of Women Voters across this great state of New York to urge you to sign the Maternal Mortality Review Board bill (A 3276 Joyner/S 1819 Rivera) and its accompanying Chapter amendment. This bill passed both houses of the legislature practically unanimously because New Yorkers realize that childbearing women are dying of preventable conditions and they want to find out why.

This bill would establish maternal mortality review boards and the maternal mortality and morbidity advisory council for the purpose of reviewing maternal deaths and maternal morbidity and developing and disseminating findings, recommendations, and best practices to contribute to the prevention of maternal mortality and morbidity.

We know that women of color and rural women are dying at greater rates than their suburban counterparts. We rank 30th among the states for maternal mortality. Let’s find out why, and then take action to remedy the situation.

Signing this bill is a positive step towards eliminating needless maternal deaths.

Very truly yours,

Suzanne Stassevitch
President, LWVNYS