



Healthcare Action Group Annual Report 2024-25

Summary:

Healthcare Action Group strives to inform, educate and support health issues that directly affect the citizens of Hillsborough and Pasco Counties, while uniting with LWVFL and LWVUS' health care reform priorities. We work to ensure health equity, which includes access to affordable quality healthcare, expansion of Medicaid, Mental Health, Oral Health and Substance Abuse services as well as the protection of the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Act (ACA). We stand behind and support Reproductive choices and services, including abortion and the right for women to have health care privacy. We offer information and collaborate with educational events focusing on health care issues and legislative initiatives. We support use of federal, state and local resources that support development of programs emphasizing equitable access to comprehensive health care with controlled costs.

Accomplishments:

For the past year, we have been and will continue to work for Reproductive Rights, which includes abortion. We united with leagues and other organizations across Florida to gather petitions to place the right to limit government interference with women's health care and reproductive choices on the ballot, working to ensure ballots were collected and validated by the Supervisor of Elections in Hillsborough and Pasco Counties. We needed 1,250,000 valid petitions, which was achieved. We continue to work for this right and will not allow opposition to impede our efforts. Working together with Progress Florida and Planned Parenthood, we are a strong organized force.

Medicaid Expansion was added to our petition collection efforts, for the 2026 ballot. We are working with Florida Decide Healthcare, Florida Policy Institute and Florida Voices, and as with Reproductive Rights, opposition is strong. Also in 2024, at the LWV-US convention, we lent our support for the Vermont Concurrence to include health care as a basic right and service. Our passion and commitment to provide information and services for quality care for the citizens of our counties continues.

Other Information:

As we move forward, our focus continues to be Reproductive Rights, Medicaid Expansion, Oral Healthcare, and Mental Health Services. We will continue to educate and examine resources for health care, gather petitions and monitor outcomes of Senate and House Bills, which will direct and lead future actions.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Winkles

Health Care Action Group Chair