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## League of Women Voters calls for 'Medicare for all'

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Noting the Obama administration's new health law falls short of providing affordable care to all U.S. residents, the national convention of the League of Women Voters passed a resolution Monday calling on the group's board to "advocate strongly" for "an improved Medicare for all."

The convention's 600 delegates, meeting in Atlanta on the group's 90th anniversary, voted more than 2 to 1 in support of the measure. In the run-up to the national meeting, nearly identical resolutions were adopted by more than 50 local chapters and 11 state organizations of the League, which claims more than 150,000 members nationwide.

Although many other groups, including labor unions, religious denominations and medical associations, have gone on record in recent years in support of a single-payer health program, or an improved Medicare for all, the League's action is believed to be the first national endorsement of its type since Congress passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in March.

"The League's action is highly welcome and highly significant," said Dr. Quentin Young, national coordinator of Physicians for a National Health Program, an organization of 17,000 doctors who support a single-payer system. "Among other things, it shows that its members are in tune with numerous polls indicating strong majority support for a government-sponsored, improved Medicare-for-all program.

"Such a program is urgently needed to bring to a close the economic and medical fiasco that is the tragic reality of our present health system - a condition which, sadly, the newly passed health law will not cure," he said.