



North Carolina Women United

Legislative Report Card for 2011

Released April 30, 2012

NC Women United (NCWU) is a coalition of progressive organizations and individuals committed to advancing public policies that support the full economic, legal and social equality of women.

NCWU works to achieve its mission through legislative advocacy, community organizing, and grassroots activism.

This is a Report Card on the 2011 session of the NC General Assembly. The Legislative Report Card for 2011 reflects legislative priorities that are key to promoting women's equality. These priorities have been identified by NCWU's member organizations and by the 2011 NC Women's Legislative Agenda, an outgrowth of NCWU's biennial local Women's Agenda Assemblies.

The "NCWU Response" indicator reflects NCWU's position on the legislative and/or budget status of each legislative item. For more information, visit www.ncwu.org.

NCWU response:



positive



negative



pending

To see the text of a bill or to find the vote history for a bill, please visit www.ncleg.net.

Access to Health Care	Legislative Status	Budget Status	NCWU Response
<p>Access to Reproductive Health Care* - H854 – Abortion: Women’s Right to Know, was passed (vetoed by Governor, overridden by NC General Assembly); requires mandatory ultrasound and 24-hour waiting period, state-funded website and physician script, with no exceptions for rape, incest, or fetal anomaly.</p> <p>The 2011 budget prohibits Planned Parenthood from receiving any state or federal funds, thereby denying women access to basic preventive health care, including life-saving cancer screenings and birth control.</p> <p>A “Choose Life” license plate was included in H289, an omnibus license plate bill; proceeds from this plate go to Crisis Pregnancy Centers.</p>	<p>Passed</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Planned Parenthood blocked from public funding</p>	<p>↓</p> <p>↓</p> <p>↓</p>
<p>Home & Community Care Block Grant Funds – Funding for the Home & Community Care Block Grant maintained at current levels, allowing low-income elderly persons to continue receiving services that allow them to remain at home.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Recurring funding maintained</p>	<p>↑</p>
<p>License and Regulate Certified Professional Midwives – Legislation filed to provide state licensure and regulation of Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs) for women who choose to give birth in out-of-hospital settings. (H522/S662)</p>	<p>Pending</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>↔</p>
Economic Self-Sufficiency	Legislative Status	Budget Status	NCWU Response
<p>Expand the Definition of “Family” within FMLA – The Caregiver Relief Act was introduced and would provide workplace support for caregivers who provide direct care to certain family members where such leave is not afforded by federal law. Still eligible for consideration in the short session. (S754)</p>	<p>Pending</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>↔</p>
<p>Housing Trust Fund Appropriation- For FY ‘11-12, the Housing Trust Fund’s appropriations were cut by 22%, from \$10 million to \$7.8 million. This is a nearly 50% reduction compared to appropriations six years ago. (H200)</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Funding cut</p>	<p>↓</p>
<p>Protect Childcare Subsidies – The current level of funding for childcare subsidies was maintained, with no increase, and transportation funds for subsidies were eliminated (used to fund free transport to and from child care centers by subsidy recipients). Current funding for child care subsidies falls extremely short of meeting demand, with the program’s waiting list at its highest level ever. (H200)</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Funding cut</p>	<p>↓</p>
<p>Maintain the Earned Income Tax Credit – Efforts to weaken the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) were not successful (H93 did not pass but it is still eligible for consideration in the 2012 legislative session). State’s EITC is set to expire at the end of 2012 without legislative action.</p>	<p>Pending</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>↓</p>

Civic Participation & Equality	Legislative Status	Budget Status	NCWU Response
Enhance Open, Ethical Government – Open the legislative process to increase public awareness of who benefits and loses as budget and other laws are considered by providing more rapid, electronic disclosures of how money flows into election campaigns. No legislation introduced in 2011 session.	N/A	N/A	
Protect and Expand Voter Owned Elections – Provide alternative, “clean” source of funding for campaigns so candidates don’t have to rely on large donors and special interests. No legislation introduced in 2011 session.	N/A	N/A	
Protect Voter Rights – Legislation was introduced that would require voters to provide photo identification before voting, making people of color, low-income voters, students and seniors more likely to be discriminated against at the polls. Legislation passed but Governor Purdue vetoed the bill and House was unsuccessful in overriding the veto. The bill is eligible for consideration in the 2012 short session. (H351/S352)	Pending	N/A	
Fight Marriage Discrimination – Ballot measure, Amendment One, to be voted on by all registered voters on May 8, 2012, amends the state Constitution to say that the only valid and recognized legal union is between a man and a woman, explicitly discriminating against same-sex couples, unmarried couples, single parents, and any children of these couples. (S106, revised to S514)	Pending	N/A	
Protect all NC Children – The School Violence Prevention Act (“bullying bill”) and Healthy Youth Act (comprehensive sex education) have been in effect since 2009, and no change in these laws in the 2011 session.	N/A	N/A	
Prevent Racial Profiling – Twenty potentially harmful bills were introduced during the 2011 legislative session, with only 1 bill being signed into law. That bill, H36, requires counties, municipalities, and employers to use the E-Verify Database system. The Speaker created the House Select Committee on the State’s Role on Immigration, which is meeting in the interim.	Passed	N/A	

Violence Against Women	Legislative Status	Budget Status	NCWU Response
<p>Maintain Funding for Victim Assistance Program – No cuts made to Domestic Violence (DV) funding in the budget, and no cut to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) for DV services for WorkFirst participants.</p> <p>The Rape Crisis Center fund, however, was cut by 5%. (H200)</p>	N/A	<p>Funding levels maintained for DV services</p> <p>Funding cut for rape crisis centers</p>	 
<p>Clarify and Enhance Statutes Relating to Violence Against Women – No new legislation filed in 2011 regarding SAVAN, however some progress on the electronic filing pilot program in Alamance County, passed in 2010, that includes automatic notification of protective orders.</p>	N/A	N/A	
<p>Strengthen Response to Criminal Domestic Violence Offenses – Legislation passed the House, now eligible in short session, requiring review of domestic violence offender’s participation in court-ordered abuser treatment program and expands tracking of criminal domestic violence cases to include all acts of domestic violence as defined in Chapter 50B. (H176)</p>	Passed	N/A	
<p>NC Human Trafficking Commission- Within the Department of Administration, the Commission has the power to 1) conduct research on international and domestic trafficking, 2) help inform law enforcement, social service providers, and the general public so that traffickers may be prosecuted, 3) identify gaps, suggest new policies, and develop strategies to eradicate further trafficking. Legislation to create this Commission was filed but did not pass. (S547)</p>	Not passed	N/A	
<p>Require Training on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault for prosecutors, magistrates, mediators, custody evaluators, parenting coordinators, guardians ad litem, and educators in the public school system – Legislation that would require such training was filed but did not pass. (H682)</p>	Not passed	N/A	

For more information on the Women’s Legislative Agenda and to view past Report Cards, please visit www.ncwu.org.

* All of the legislative/budget items on expanding Access to Reproductive Health Care are pending litigation as of 4/30/12.