

2009 North Carolina Women's Legislative Agenda

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

♀ **Healthy Youth Act, S221/H88.** Create a two-track system for teaching sexuality education in NC—one for abstinence until marriage and another for abstinence-based comprehensive sexuality education—for grades 7-9 and allow parents to choose a program for their child.

♀ **Home & Community Care Block Grant Funds, S185/H142.** Provide \$2.5 million for each year of the biennium—as recommended by the Legislative Study Commission on Aging—to increase home-delivered services for low-income persons 60 and over to enable them to stay in their homes.

CIVIC PARTICIPATION & EQUALITY

♀ **Expand Voter-Owned Elections, H586.** Give candidates for Council of State agency heads a voluntary option to finance their campaigns using a publicly supported fund but only if hundreds of registered voters authorize them to do so.

♀ **Public Municipal Campaigns, H120.** Authorize publicly financed campaigns at the local level for any city in NC.

♀ **The School Violence Prevention Act, S526/H548.** Require all schools to adopt policies that clearly define and prohibit bullying and harassment.

ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY

♀ **Healthy Families & Healthy Workplaces Act, S534/H177.** Provide access to paid sick days for NC workers to care for themselves and ill family members or to deal with incidents of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking.

♀ **Housing Trust Fund Appropriations, S125/H176.** Provide \$50 million for each year of the biennium for the Housing Trust Fund.

♀ **Minimum Wages/Inflation Increases, H175.** Provide for automatic adjustment of the state's minimum wage based on increases in the consumer price index.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

♀ **Add Division of Law Enforcement Support Services (LESS) to Crime Control & Public Safety (CCPS), S139/H201.** Clarify that LESS will be storing rape kits at a centralized warehouse and that it is a division of the CCPS.

♀ **Child Witness Testimony/Procedures, H192.** Allow remote testimony in criminal proceedings where the court has determined that 1) the minor would suffer significant emotional distress by testifying in the defendant's presence and; 2) the minor's ability to communicate would be impaired.

♀ **Funding for Sexual Assault Programs, Budget.** 1) Preserve 2008 appropriated funding levels to Rape Crisis Center Fund. 2) Preserve and enhance the Rape Victim Assistance Fund.

♀ **Increase Funding for Domestic Violence Programs, S227/H151.** Provide \$2 million for domestic violence programs funded by the Council for Women/Domestic Violence Commission.

♀ **NC Human Trafficking Commission, S353.** Create NC Human Trafficking Commission and appoint a member of NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

♀ **Protect Domestic Violence Shelters, S144.** Provide that local domestic violence programs will not be held liable for harmful acts committed by a perpetrator on their premises.

♀ **Recommendations of Joint Domestic Violence Committee, S223/H115.** 1) Rename the NC Council for Women/Domestic Violence Commission, 2) expand issues that Council for Women addresses, 3) provide criteria for members of the Council for Women, 4) amend Chapter 50B to require a summons be issued which allows the Defendant to respond within 10 days, 5) direct the Administrative Office of the Courts to determine cost of implementing a domestic violence protective order notification system which interfaces with the NC SAVAN system, and 6) direct the NC Domestic Violence Commission to study the issue of State oversight and coordination of services to victims of sexual violence.

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AAUW NC, Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Coalition of NC, Buncombe County Commission for Women, Business and Professional Women of NC, Carteret County Women's Resource Center, Democracy North Carolina, Equality NC, INTERACT, Ipas, League of Women Voters of NC, National Association of Social Workers--NC Chapter, NC Association of Women Attorneys, NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence, NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault, NC Justice Center, NC NOW, Orange County Commission for Women, Planned Parenthood Health Systems, Planned Parenthood of Central NC, Triangle MomsRising, Triangle Older Women's League, Women's Forum of NC, Women's Resource Center in Alamance County, Women's Resource Center - Hickory