

2013 North Carolina Women's Legislative Agenda

INCREASE ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Extend the state Earned Income Tax Credit to ensure that working-poor families don't pay a greater share of their income in state and local taxes than the state's richest households. Support HB 152 & SB 185, which would extend this modest support by 5 years.

Sustain funding for childcare subsidies that provide affordable, quality child care for low-income workers who are pursuing work or additional educational training.

Restore the state appropriation to the NC Housing Trust Fund that was zeroed-out in the FY2012-13 budget to help ensure that women and working families are able to pay for housing expenses and still pay for basic necessities like child care and groceries.

Enhance support for workforce training programs that assist workers in building skills, preparing for work, and finding employment in a 21st Century economy.

Implement and expand work-family policies to ensure that women and working families are able to meet their family responsibilities while maintaining economic security.

EXPAND ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

Ensure the effective implementation of the Affordable Care Act and expand and protect critical health care programs—like Medicaid—as implementation of the Act moves forward.

Protect access to all reproductive health care and ensure that women are able to access the full range of safe and legal reproductive health care options, including abortion care, without government intrusion or restriction.

Provide state licensure and regulation of Certified Professional Midwives for women who choose to give birth in out-of-hospital settings. Support HB 154/SB 106 and HB 155/SB 107.

Protect the Healthy Living Curriculum and oppose SB 132, which mandates that public health curricula include scientifically-inaccurate data on the safety of abortion care.

Increase Home & Community Care Block Grant Funding to relieve long-waiting lists for adult protective services and home-delivered services, allowing more frail and low-income elderly persons to remain in their homes.

STATEMENT ON THE BUDGET

The state budget is structurally unsound and insufficient to meet the needs of North Carolinians. The state's future prosperity will be largely determined by the extent to which these problems are addressed and the needs of women and their families are prioritized. We urge lawmakers to make progress to pre-recession levels of spending on public structures that are critical to the state's future and that make women and families healthier, happier, and stronger.

END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Maintain funding for victim assistance programs, including state appropriations that are distributed through the NC Council for Women. Ensure that the Rape Victim Assistance Fund and the Crime Victims Compensation Fund are adequately funded.

Clarify and enhance statutes relating to violence against women. Ensure that DVPOs entered by consent without findings of fact are enforceable. Clarify consent in the rape statute and ensure that sex crime statutes are gender neutral.

Strengthen Response to Criminal Domestic Violence Offenses. Strengthen penalties for domestic violence crimes, require mandatory minimum sentences for repeat offenders, and require entry of pre-trial release conditions into the NC AWARE system.

Support legislation that would end and address human trafficking, including, but not limited to, a comprehensive approach to addressing all forms of sex trafficking, labor trafficking, and sexual exploitation.

INCREASE CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND EQUALITY

Protect voter rights and build a strong, healthy civic life for residents by focusing on bills that encourage voter turnout and civic participation, not suppressing voter rights that disproportionately affect people of color, people with disabilities, the elderly, and women.

Prevent racial profiling and protect the civil rights of those who have traditionally been denied those rights because of race, ethnicity, or national origin.

Ensure a sound basic education by fully funding early childhood programs and the K-12 system, recognizing the importance of socioeconomic and racially diverse classrooms, and easing economic barriers to post-secondary education.

Support policies that protect all North Carolinians from discriminatory employment practices such as terminations due to gender identity and/or sexual orientation.

Enhance open, ethical government by providing more rapid, electronic disclosure of how money flows into elections. Support election integrity by protecting the state judicial public financing program.

STATEMENT ON TAX REFORM

None of the collective investments in North Carolina's future are possible without adequate resources. We urge lawmakers to ensure that revenue modernization proposals maintain the diversity of the state's revenue sources, raise adequate revenue to meet the needs of all communities, and do not shift responsibility for our collective investments away from the wealthy and towards low-income and middle-income North Carolinians.



North Carolina Women United

NC Women United is a coalition of progressive organizations and individuals working to achieve the full political, social, and economic equality of all women across North Carolina. NCWU works to build women's power through grassroots activism, community organizing, legislative advocacy, and engagement in the political process.

To achieve full political, social, and economic equality, NCWU advances public policies and laws that:

- Increase the participation of women as voters, leaders, and decision-makers in the political process
- Ensure freedom from domestic violence and sexual assault
- Protect and advance reproductive freedom
- Promote access to training and educational opportunities that lead to meaningful employment
- Provide full and equal civil rights
- Recognize and respond to the needs of women and their families for affordable and accessible services, including health care, child care, and elder care
- Secure pay equity and economic self-sufficiency
- Eliminate hunger, poverty, and homelessness

2013 NCWU Members

AAUW of North Carolina	National Association of Social Workers, NC Chapter	Planned Parenthood Health Systems
Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Campaign of NC	NC Association of Women Attorneys	Planned Parenthood of Central North Carolina
Carolina Abortion Fund	NC Business and Professional Women Foundation	RATIFY ERA-NC
Democracy North Carolina	NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Time4Change of NC
Equality North Carolina	NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault	Triangle Older Women's League
Greensboro Commission on the Status of Women	NC Friends of Midwives	Women AdvaNce
Ipas	NC Justice Center	Women's Forum of North Carolina
League of Women Voters of North Carolina	NC MomsRising	Women's Resource Center in Alamance County
Mecklenburg County Community Support Services, Women's Commission Division	NC National Organization for Women	WomenNC - NC Committee for CSW/CEDAW
NARAL Pro-Choice NC Foundation	NC Stop Human Trafficking	YWCA of Asheville and Western NC
	Onslow County Council for Women	