



Washington State National Organization for Women

WA State NOW Legislative Update March 4, 2007

Legislative Hotline 1(800) 562-6000

Call to leave a message for your elected officials

Priority Message of the Week (If you can only do one thing, do this!)

Call or send an e-mail message your Senator. **Ask that s/he vote YES on SB 5297 Regarding providing medically and scientifically accurate sexual health education in schools.** SB 5297 requires that every school that offers sexual health education must assure that sexual health education is medically and scientifically accurate, age appropriate, appropriate for students regardless of gender, race, disability status, or sexual orientation, and includes information about abstinence and other methods of preventing unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. All sexual health information, instruction, and materials must be medically and scientifically accurate.

2nd Cutoff Date for Legislation – Our next cutoff date is tomorrow Monday, March 5, 2007. This is the last day for bills to pass out of the House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees in their house of origin. The bills must be in the Rules Committee of their originating house or have passed out of the original house to the opposite chamber of the Legislature.

3rd Cutoff Date for Legislation – Wednesday, March 14, 2007 is the last day for bills to be considered in their originating house.

Economic Justice

HB 1658 Establishing family and medical leave insurance. SUPPORT

HB 1658 establishes a family and medical leave insurance program to pay up to 5 weeks of family and medical leave.

Status: HB 1658 is in the House Appropriations Committee and must pass out of the committee by Monday, March 5.

Action: Send an e-mail message to [Representative Helen Sommers \(sommers_he@leg.wa.gov\)](mailto:sommers_he@leg.wa.gov), chair of the House Appropriations Committee and ask that executive action be scheduled on HB 1658.

AND

If your Representative is a member of the House Appropriations Committee contact them and ask them to vote YES on HB 1658.

HB 1020 Regulating small loans SUPPORT and HB 1021 Regulating small loans SUPPORT

Both HB 1020 and 1021 are bills that regulate small “payday” loans. Both of these bills require the Department of Financial Institutions to ensure compliance with laws prohibiting rollovers. Both bills set a maximum per year interest rate of 38%. HB 1021 has additional requirements for these types of loans made to military personnel.

Status: DEAD

Action:
HB 1074: Establishing the microenterprise development program. SUPPORT
Expands training and technical assistance on micro lending practices to local organizations
Status: HB 1074 is in the House Appropriations Committee and is eligible for executive action.
Action: Send an e-mail message to Representative Helen Sommers (sommers_he@leg.wa.gov) , chair of the House Appropriations Committee and ask that executive action be scheduled on HB 1074. AND If your Representative is a member of the House Appropriations Committee contact them and ask them to vote YES on HB 1074.
HB 1118: Providing living wages on public contracts SUPPORT
This bill requires the Department of Social & Health Services, and the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development to only contract with agencies or non-profit organization that pay a living wage. This is defined as \$8.00 an hour with health benefits OR \$9.50 per hour without health benefits. The bill includes and annual recalculation of what constitutes a living wage.
Status: HB 1118 is in the House Appropriations Committee where it must have executive action by March 5, 2007 in order to remain alive.
Action: an e-mail message to Representative Helen Sommers (sommers_he@leg.wa.gov) , chair of the House Appropriations Committee and ask that executive action be scheduled on HB 118. AND If your Representative is a member of the House Appropriations Committee contact them and ask them to vote YES on HB 1118.
HB 1119: Achieving economic security through income sufficient to meet basic needs. SUPPORT
This bill seeks to establish a minimum wage that enables employees to provide for the basic needs of their families and, therefore, not rely on social services provided by the state and paid for by state taxpayers. It directs the Secretary of State to submit this act to the people for their adoption and ratification, or rejection, at the next general election to be held in this state.
Status: DEAD
Action:
SB 5153: Encouraging employers to be infant friendly SUPPORT
This bill encourages employers to become infant-friendly if requested by an employee. This bill also establishes a workgroup to develop standard model infant-friendly policies. Infant friendly means that the employer provides time and a place for expression of breast milk. The employer can advertise that they are infant friendly if their policy meets the health and safety requirements and it is approved by the Department of Health.
Status: SB 5153 is in the Senate Rules Committee where it can be passed out to the Senate floor for a vote by the Senate.
Action: Send a message to your Senator and ask them to vote YES on SB 5153.
SB 5827 - Regarding consumer privacy. SUPPORT
This bill would prohibit employers from checking consumer reports of people seeking employment unless the employer is a financial institution or public safety entity. And the financial institution or public safety entity must first receive authorization from the applicant or conspicuously disclose in writing that they will be requesting the credit report.
Status: SB 5827 is in the Senate Rules Committee where it can be placed on the calendar for a full vote of the Senate.
Action: Contact your Senator and ask them to vote yes on SB 5827.

Equal Rights

HB 1350 Addressing civil marriage equality SUPPORT

SB 5335 Addressing civil marriage equality SUPPORT

This is the equal marriage bill, which removes the prohibition on marrying someone of the same sex in Washington state. No requirements are imposed upon religious groups to perform same-sex religious marriage. The definition of marriage in Washington's marriage laws is amended from "a civil contract between a male and a female ..." to "a civil contract between two persons..." Same-sex marriages that are validly entered into in other states or jurisdictions are recognized in Washington.

Status: DEAD

Action:

SB 5336

Protecting individuals in domestic partnerships by granting certain rights and benefits SUPPORT

SB 5336 establishes a domestic partnership registry for couples that are adult same sex partners, or heterosexual couples where one member is at least 62 years of age. Domestic partnerships, civil unions, or reciprocal beneficiary relationships registered in other states are recognized in Washington so long as all the Washington criteria for domestic partnership are met. Domestic partners of state employees are qualified to receive benefits covered by the Public Employment Benefits Board. Rights of spouses extended to domestic partners include:

- ❖ Health Care
 - Visitation of a patient in a health-care facility
 - Ability to give informed consent for health care for a patient who is not competent
 - Disclosure by a health-care facility of health-care information about a patient without the patient's authorization
- ❖ Death
 - Funeral arrangements.
 - Ability to consent to autopsies
 - Authorization of organ and tissue donation
 - Inheritance rights when there is no will
 - Administration of an estate if the decedent died intestate or if the representative named in the will is unable to serve
- ❖ Provisions dealing with non-probate assets and power of attorney

Status: SSB 5336 passed the Senate on 3/1/07 with a 28 YES (all the Democratic Senators except Sens Sheldon, Hargrove and Rassmussen. One Republican – Sen. Brandland also voted YES), 19 NO and 2 EXCUSED (Sens Shin & Pflug) votes.

SSB 5336 has been sent to the House and will be the version the House uses to pass this bill into law.

Action: Contact your Senator and thank them if they voted YES on SB 5336.

SB 5069: Extending state retirement benefits to domestic partners SUPPORT

This bill extends retirement benefits for all of the WA State Government retirement systems to domestic partners in addition to spouses and estates.

Status: Referred to Senate Ways and Means. This bill must pass out of the Senate Ways and Means committee by the end of the day on March 5, 2007 in order to remain alive.

Action: Send an e-mail message to [Senator Margarita Prentice \(prentice_ma@leg.wa.gov\)](mailto:prentice_ma@leg.wa.gov) for the Senate Ways and Means Committee and ask that she bring SB 5069 bill up for an executive session to pass the bill out of committee.

SB 5063 Removing gender references SUPPORT

This bill brings a number of statutes into compliance with RCW 44.04.210, which requires statutes to be gender neutral. This is a technical bill that changes references such as firemen to firefighters and

policemen to police officers.
Status: ESB 5063 passed the Senate and is in the House State Government & Tribal Affairs Committee
Action: Send an e-mail message to Representative Sam Hunt (hunt_sa@leg.wa.gov) and ask that he bring ESB 5063 up for a public hearing and executive action to pass the bill out of committee.
SB 5033 Recognizing women's suffrage day SUPPORT
This bill declares that the nineteenth day of July be recognized as Women's Suffrage Day but shall not be considered a legal holiday for any purpose. July 19, 1848 was the date of the first Women's Rights Convention. The purpose of Women's Suffrage Day is to honor great American women for their past, present, and future accomplishments of furthering equal rights of all American women.
Status: SB 5033 is in the Rules Committee where it can be passed out to the floor for a vote by the full senate.
Action: Call and leave a message for your senator and ask that they vote YES on SB 5033.
SB 5226 Providing for public funding of judicial campaigns SUPPORT
This bill establishes a voluntary campaign funding system for the State Supreme Court and Appellate Court judicial positions. It is intended to reduce the impact of special interests in judicial campaigns
Status: SSB 5226 is in the Senate Ways and Means Committee and must pass out of committee by Monday March 5, 2007 in order to remain alive.
Action: Send an e-mail message to Senator Margarita Prentice (prentice_ma@leg.wa.gov) , chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee and ask that she schedule executive action on SSB 5226. AND If your Senator is a member of the Senate Ways & Means Committee contact them and ask that they vote YES on SB 5226
SB 5530 Changing requirements for the restoration of the right to vote for people convicted of felonies. SUPPORT
Provides that the right to vote is restored following a felony conviction as long as the person is not on probation or in total confinement in the custody of the department of corrections or the federal bureau of prisons, whether serving the original sentence or serving time for a violation of supervision conditions.
Status: SSB 5530 is now in the Senate Rules Committee where it can be sent to the floor of the Senate for a vote.
Action: Contact your Senator and ask that they vote YES on SSB 5530
SB 5837 Monitoring federal and state nondiscrimination in education laws, rules, and regulations. SUPPORT
Requires the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to monitor local school districts' compliance with state and federal laws, rules, and regulations concerning sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, and sexual discrimination towards students. OSPI will also monitor employee knowledge of those laws, rules, and regulations. OSPI will establish rules for enforcing the laws, rules, and regulations and establish guidelines for nondiscrimination programs to be adopted by all school districts. The compliance monitoring process will be conducted on a three-year cycle, with one-third of the school districts reporting each year.
Status: SB 5837 is in the Senate Ways & Means Committee and must have an executive session by Monday, March 5, 2007 to remain alive.
Action: Send an e-mail message to Senator Margarita Prentice (prentice_ma@leg.wa.gov) for the Senate Ways and Means Committee and ask that she bring an executive session to pass the bill out of committee AND If your Senator is a member of the Senate Ways & Means Committee contact them and ask that they vote YES on SB 5837

HB 1550 Creating the Washington community learning center program. SUPPORT

This bill establishes the Washington Community Learning Center Program to create and expand after school community learning centers.

Status: HB 1550 is in the House Appropriations Committee where it must have an executive session by Monday, March 5, 2007 in order to remain alive..

Action: Send an e-mail message to [Representative Helen Sommers \(sommers_he@leg.wa.gov\)](mailto:sommers_he@leg.wa.gov), chair of the House Appropriations Committee and ask that HB 1550 be passed out of committee.

AND

If your Representative is a member of the House Appropriations Committee contact them and ask that they vote YES on HB 1550

Family Law**SB 5470 Revising provisions concerning dissolution proceedings SUPPORT**

This bill provides divorcing parents free mediation prior to divorce and afterwards (voluntary), puts court facilitators in every court, and develops and provides training to these professionals and others in the family law arena regarding issues of: domestic violence, child sexual abuse etc.

Status: SSB 5470 is in the Senate Ways & Means Committee where it must have an executive session by Monday, March 5, 2007 in order to remain alive.

Action: Send an e-mail message to [Senator Margarita Prentice \(prentice_ma@leg.wa.gov\)](mailto:prentice_ma@leg.wa.gov) for the Senate Ways and Means Committee and ask that she bring an executive session to pass the bill out of committee

AND

If your Senator is a member of the Senate Ways & Means Committee contact them and ask that they vote YES on SB 5470

SB 5425 Adding additional appropriate locations for the transfer of newborn children SUPPORT

SB 5425 adds medical clinics to the list of places that a parent can transfer a newborn anonymously to the Department of Social and Health Services and not be subject to criminal liability for child abandonment. Current law allows this to be done at fire stations and hospitals only.

Status: SB 5425 is in the Senate Rules Committee where it can be placed on the calendar for a vote by the full Senate.

Action: Contact your Senator and ask them to vote YES on SB 5425.

HB 1108: Relating to visitation rights for grandparents OPPOSE

Sets out guidelines as to when grandparents have the right to petition for visitation. This includes allowing for visitation even when opposed by the parent

Status: DEAD

Action: Celebrate.

SB 5071: Relating to visitation rights for grandparents OPPOSE

Sets out guidelines as to when grandparents have the right to petition for visitation. This includes allowing for visitation even when opposed by the parent

Status: DEAD

Action: Celebrate

SB 5234: Encouraging shared parental responsibility in child custody arrangements OPPOSE

This bill sets out a presumption that shared parenting is in the best interest of all children

Status: DEAD

Action: Celebrate

HB 1009 Establishing work groups to periodically review and update the child support schedule SUPPORT

Beginning in 2011 and every four years after a work group shall be convened to review the child support guidelines. The work group shall report its findings and recommendations for legislative action to the legislature.

The bill also provides that, by August 1, 2007, the Division of Child Support convene a work group to examine the current laws, administrative rules, and practices regarding child support. The objective of the work group shall be to continue the work of the 2005 child support guidelines work group, and produce findings and recommendations to the legislature, including recommendations for legislative action, by December 30, 2008.

Status: 2nd SHB 1009 is in the House Rules Committee where it can be sent to the floor for a vote by the full House.

Action: Contact your Representatives and ask them to vote YES on 2nd SHB 1009.

SB 5472 Establishing a pilot program for family counseling MONITOR

SB 5472 establishes a pilot program for pre-marital counseling. When the DSHS receives a copy of a marriage certificate and a certificate of completion of a family preparation course issued by a qualified instructor the department issue a merit check to the couple, not to exceed one hundred dollars per married couple.

Status: SB 5472 is in the Senate Rules Committee.

Action:

Health Care Access

SB 5093 – Concerning access to health care services for children SUPPORT

This bill expands coverage for children's health insurance up to 250% Federal Poverty Level, adds time certain goals for schools to reach higher nutrition standards and requires at least 1/2 hour per day of physical activity for grades 1 to 8. .

Status: 2nd SSB 5093 has passed out of the Senate.

2nd SSB is now in the House Rules Committee where it can be sent to the floor for a vote by the full House

Action: Contact your Representatives and ask that they vote YES on 2nd SSB 5093

HB 2098 Providing high quality, affordable health care to Washingtonians based on the recommendations of the blue ribbon commission on health care costs and access. SUPPORT

Provides a plan to develop high quality, affordable health care to Washingtonians based on the recommendations of the blue ribbon commission on health care costs and access.

Status: SHB 2098 is in the House Rules Committee where it can be sent to the floor for a vote by the full House of Representatives.

Action:

Contact your Representatives and ask that they vote YES on SHB 2098.

SB 5930 Providing high quality, affordable health care to Washingtonians based on the recommendations of the blue ribbon commission on health care costs and access. SUPPORT

This is the Senate version of HB 2098.

Status: SSB 5930 is in the Senate Ways and Means Committee where it must have an executive hearing by Monday March 5, in order to remain alive.

Action: Send an e-mail message to [Senator Margarita Prentice \(prentice_ma@leg.wa.gov\)](mailto:prentice_ma@leg.wa.gov) for the Senate Ways and Means Committee and ask that she bring SSB 5930 bill up for an executive session to pass the bill out of committee.

AND

If your Senator is a member of the Senate Ways & Means Committee contact them and ask that they vote

YES on SB 5930

HB 2094 Creating the taxpayer health care fairness act. MONITOR

Establishes the taxpayer health care fairness act which would require employers of one thousand or more employees to reimburse the state for the state's cost of providing access to health care services (i.e. state medical assistance or the Basic Health Plan) to Washington Workers. There has been concern expressed by the low income advocacy community about the negative impact this particular bill would have on employers willing to hire certain folks – especially those on or transitioning off of TANF.

Status: HB 2094 is in the House Appropriations Committee.

Action:

SB 5261 Granting the insurance commissioner the authority to review individual health benefit plan rates SUPPORT

This bill grants the Office of the Insurance Commissioner the authority to review individual health plans rates

Status: SB 5261 is in the Rules Committee where it can be scheduled for a vote by the full Senate.

Action: Contact your Senator and ask that they vote YES on SB 5261

HB 1163 Creating a human stem cell research advisory committee. SUPPORT

This bill creates a human stem cell research advisory committee. The committee's purpose is to develop scientific, ethical, and legal guidelines for research involving the derivation or use of human adult stem cells, human embryonic germ cells, and human embryonic stem cells in Washington. The guidelines developed by this committee must be submitted to the life sciences discovery fund authority by July 1, 2008.

Status: DEAD

Action:

HB 1337 Regarding coverage for colorectal cancer examinations and laboratory tests. SUPPORT

This bill requires health insurance policies to cover colorectal cancer screening for individuals over 50 and those at high risk of colorectal cancer

Status: SHB 1337 is in the House Rules Committee where it can be sent to the floor for a vote by the full House.

Action: Contact your Representatives and ask them to vote YES on HB 1337.

HB 1569 Reforming the health care system in Washington state. SUPPORT

A Washington State Health Insurance Connector (Connector) is established. The Health Care Authority Administrator will administer it. A 12-member Board will govern the Connector. The Connector will be responsible for developing and approving all health benefit plans sold by carriers through the Connector for small employer groups and employees receiving health coverage through association plans. Up to six plans will be offered, with at least three deductible and point-of-service cost-sharing options. Benefits plans will include a plan comparable to the Basic Health Plan, and other plans ranging from catastrophic to comprehensive coverage. The Board may offer a limited health care plan for dental services. All benefit plans offered through the Connector must include components to improve quality of care and health outcomes. The Connector will administer a premium assistance program for individuals and employees with household incomes at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. Employers with more than five employees are required to adopt and maintain a cafeteria plan, and will collect and transmit amounts designated as payroll deductions by employees to the Connector. After January 1, 2012, individuals over 18 are required to obtain and maintain creditable health coverage, if it is deemed affordable by the Connector Board (Board).

Status: The bill was heard for executive action in the House Appropriations Committee on Saturday March 3 and will be sent to the Rules Committee where it can be sent to the floor for a vote by the full House.

Action: Contact your Representatives and ask that they vote YES on HB 1569.

HB 1348 Protecting against unfair prescription drug practices by pharmacy benefit managers SUPPORT

This bill Establishes protections against unfair prescription drug practices by pharmacy benefit managers.

Status: DEAD

Action:

HB 1802 Providing information about the human papillomavirus disease and vaccine SUPPORT

This bill would require all public and private schools to provide information to parents of sixth grade and older children about the human papillomavirus including places where additional information and vaccine can be obtained.

Status: HB 1802 is currently in the Rules Committee where it can be scheduled for a vote by the full House.

Action: Contact your Representatives and ask them to vote YES on HB 1802.

HB 2166 Enacting the Washington safe cosmetics act of 2007. SUPPORT

This bill would require manufacturers to provide the department of health with a list of all cosmetic products sold in Washington State that contain any ingredient that has been identified as causing cancer or reproductive toxicity.

Status: DEAD.

Action:

HB 1730 Regarding the use of the life sciences discovery fund for human stem cell research. SUPPORT

HB 1730 declares that human embryonic stem cells that are generated by an invitro fertilization procedure may be donated for research purposes when both the sperm and egg donor gives consent. Funds from the Life Sciences Discovery Fund may be used for human stem cell research if the human stem cell were donated in compliance with this act.

Status: HB 1730 is in the House Rules Committee where it can be sent to the floor for a vote by the full House.

Action: Contact your Representatives and ask them to vote YES on HB 1730.

HB 1439 Providing for a study to review the age of consent in Washington OPPOSE

This bill directs the Washington State Institute for Public Policy to review WA State law to determine all areas of WA laws in which the age of consent is statutorily established.

Status: DEAD

Action: Celebrate

SB 5180: Regulating tattooing and body piercing MONITOR

This bill requires the Department Health to establish sterilization and disease prevention standards for body art and body piercing procedures. The bill also requires registration with the Department of Health by all persons/businesses who practice body art and body piercing procedures

Status: DEAD.

Action:

HB 1383 Regulating body piercing MONITOR

This bill directs the Department of Health to develop rules and declares that a person who practices body piercing or body art must comply with rules regarding standard universal health precautions for preventing the spread of disease.

Status: HB 1383 is in the House Rules Committee where it can be scheduled for a vote by the full House.

Action:

SB 5821 Regulating body art facilities. MONITOR

This bill allows the department of health to develop rules, which would allow local public health districts to regulate body art operators and facilities. The bill requires that there be minimum health standards including universal precautions for preventing the spread of disease.

Status: SSB 5821 is in the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

Action:

HB 1003: Concerning sexually transmitted infections in correctional facilities MONITOR

This bill requires the Department of Corrections to study and implement a plan to reduce the prevalence and spread of sexually transmitted infections in correctional facilities

Status: DEAD

Action:

HB 1207 Regulating health benefit plan rates MONITOR

This bill requires that new or revised rates for health benefit plans until 60 days after filing with the insurance commissioner. It also requires that the insurance commissioner take into consideration the carrier's surplus when reviewing rates.

Status: DEAD

Action:

Programs that support low income families and individuals**HB 1115 Creating programs to end homelessness SUPPORT**

This bill establishes programs to end homelessness. It requires the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee to conduct performance audits of the ending homelessness programs every four years.

Status: SHB 1115 is in the House Appropriations Committee where it must have executive action taken by Monday, March 5 in order to remain alive.

Action: Send an e-mail message to [Representative Helen Sommers \(sommers_he@leg.wa.gov\)](mailto:sommers_he@leg.wa.gov), chair of the House Appropriations Committee and ask that executive action be scheduled on HB 1115.

AND

If your Representative is a member of the House Appropriations Committee contact them and ask them to vote YES on HB 1115.

HB 1116 Creating a plan to increase the homeownership rate to seventy-five percent by 2020 SUPPORT

Requires the Washington state housing finance commission to create a strategic plan to increase the state homeownership rate to seventy-five percent by the year 2020.

Status: HB 1116 has passed out of the House and is now in the Senate Consumer Protection & Housing Committee.

Action: Send an e-mail to [Senator Brian Weinstein \(weinstein_br@leg.wa.gov\)](mailto:weinstein_br@leg.wa.gov), and ask that HB 1116 be scheduled for executive action and be passed out of committee.

AND

If your senator is a member of the Senate Consumer Protection and Housing Committee, contact your Senator and ask them to vote YES on HB 1116.

SB 5410 Creating postsecondary opportunity programs SUPPORT

SB 5410 directs the college board in coordination with business and labor to identify post secondary training programs that lead to a credential, certificate or degree in high demand occupations. Creates the postsecondary opportunity grant program to assist students whose family income is at the 200 percent of poverty level or below. Funds for the program are given to the post secondary program to assist the students in accessing individualized support services and access alternative financial resources for their education.

Status: DEAD
Action:
HB 1096 Creating postsecondary opportunity programs SUPPORT
HB 1096 directs the college board in coordination with business and labor to identify post secondary training programs that lead to a credential, certificate or degree in high demand occupations. Creates the postsecondary opportunity grant program to assist students whose family income is at the 200 percent of poverty level or below. Funds for the program are given to the post secondary program to assist the students in accessing individualized support services and access alternative financial resources for their education.
Status: 2 nd SHB 1096 is in the House Rules Committee where it can be sent to the floor for a vote by the full House
Action: Contact your Representatives and ask that they vote YES on 2 nd SHB 1096.
HB 1663 Regarding early child development and learning. SUPPORT
This bill establishes the Early Learning Advisory Council to the Department of Early Learning. It also establishes a five star voluntary rating system to give parents better information about the quality of childcare and early education programs and to increase the quality of early learning through out the state.
Status: HB 1663 is in the House Appropriations Committee where executive action must be taken by Monday March 5, 2007 in order for it to remain alive.
Action: Send an e-mail message to Representative Helen Sommers (sommers_he@leg.wa.gov) , chair of the House Appropriations Committee and ask that executive action be scheduled on HB 1663 AND If your Representative is a member of the House Appropriations Committee contact them and ask them to vote YES on HB 1663.
HB 2374 Removing funding restrictions for the temporary assistance for needy families program. SUPPORT
This bill removes the funding restrictions that were imposed in 1997 that prohibited both the legislature and the governor from raising TANF grants. This bill needs to pass in order to allow TANF recipients to receive the first grant increase in 14 years!
Status: This bill is in the House Appropriations Committee.
Action: Send an e-mail message to Representative Helen Sommers (sommers_he@leg.wa.gov) , chair of the House Appropriations Committee and ask that executive action be scheduled on HB 2374. AND If your Representative is a member of the House Appropriations Committee contact them and ask them to vote YES on HB 2374.
HB 2256 - Establishing the family prosperity act. SUPPORT
This is an omnibus bill on various asset-building programs for low-income families. The Washington Asset Building Coalition is created to provide statewide leadership on initiatives that foster financial self-sufficiency and economic security for low-income working families.
Status: HB 2256 is in the House Finance Committee where it must have executive action by Monday, March 4, 2007 in order to remain alive.
Action: Send an e-mail message to Representative Ross Hunter (hunter_ro@leg.wa.gov) , chair of the House Finance Committee and ask that HB 2256 be passed out of committee. AND If your Representative is a member of the Finance Committee contact them and ask them to vote YES on HB 2256

SB 5168 Creating a sales tax refund for low-income students - MONITOR

SB 5168 allows low-income students who have qualified for a state need grant for higher education or who are eligible for federal food stamp program or state-funded basic food benefits to apply on a quarterly basis for a sales tax refund.

Status: DEAD

SB 5183 Regarding cost savings on course materials for students at community and technical colleges MONITOR

SB 5183 requires community and technical colleges to adopt rules for their affiliated bookstores. The institutions' rules must provide students with the option to purchase unbundled materials when possible, provide for the disclosure of changes to textbooks and costs, and promote book buy-backs. Faculties are required to consider the least costly practices in assigning course materials. This requirement already exists for the state's 4-year colleges.

Status: SSB 5183 has passed the Senate and is being sent to the House for committee assignment.

HB 1206 Assisting low-income persons to obtain affordable automobile liability insurance MONITOR

HB 1206 requires that auto insurance companies in WA State to participate on an apportioned basis in an assigned risk plan for low-income persons.

Status: HB 1206 is in the House Rules Committee where it can be sent to the floor for a vote by the full House of Representatives.

Reproductive Rights**HB 1855 Regarding Sex Education in the Schools SUPPORT**

HB 1855 requires public schools that offer sexual health education to ensure that it is consistent with the 2005 Guidelines for Sexual Health Information and Disease Prevention, including being medically and scientifically accurate, and provides information about abstinence and other methods of preventing unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

Status: HB 1855 is in the House Rules Committee where it can be sent to the floor for a vote by the full House of Representatives.

Action: Contact your Representatives and ask them to vote YES on HB 1855.

SB 5297 Regarding providing medically and scientifically accurate sexual health education in schools SUPPORT

Requires, by September 1, 2008, that every school that offers sexual health education must assure that sexual health education is medically and scientifically accurate, age appropriate, appropriate for students regardless of gender, race, disability status, or sexual orientation, and includes information about abstinence and other methods of preventing unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. All sexual health information, instruction, and materials must be medically and scientifically accurate.

Status: SSB 5297 is in the Senate Rules Committee where it can be placed on the calendar for a full vote of the Senate.

Action: Contact your Senator and ask them to vote YES on SSB 5297.

SB 5585 Concerning parent and child health services provided by the department of health SUPPORT

Due to a narrowing of the federal definition of family planning, Medicaid Coverage for a variety of family planning services has been cut off. This bill defines family planning in WA State as including risk reduction education and counseling; screening testing and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases;

cancer screening; contraceptive supplies and devices; and sterilization counseling and services. HB 1686 encourages coverage of family planning as an essential component of the health care system and provides public health funding for preventive family planning services for women and men with family incomes up to two hundred percent of the federal poverty level when not covered by Medicaid.

Status: SSB 5585 is in the Senate Rules Committee where it can be sent to the floor of the Senate for a vote.

Action: Contact your Senator and ask that they vote YES on SSB 5585

HB 1321 Establishing parental notification requirements for abortion OPPOSE

Requires that a physician inform a minor's parent or an incapacitated person's guardian at least 48 hours prior to a scheduled abortion. The only exception is in the case of a medical emergency.

Status: DEAD

Action: Celebrate

Stopping Violence Against Women

SB 5118 Developing sexual harassment policies, procedures, and mandatory training for all state employees SUPPORT

This bill requires the Department of Personnel to develop rules establishing guidelines on policies, procedures, reporting, and mandatory training for all state agencies on sexual harassment for all state employees.

Status: SSB 5118 is now in the Senate Rules Committee where it can be placed on the calendar for a full vote of the Senate.

Action: Contact your Senator and ask them to vote YES on SSB 5118.

SB 5637 Concerning fees for petitioners of sexual assault protection orders. SUPPORT

This bill waives filing and process serving fees for sexual assault protection orders.

Status: SB 5637 is in the Senate Rules Committee where it can be placed on the calendar for a full vote of the Senate..

Action: Contact your Senator and ask them to vote YES on SB 5637.

SB 5900 Increasing the safety of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking by ensuring leave from employment. SUPPORT

An employee may take reasonable leave or a reduced leave schedule from work if he or she, or a family member, is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. An employee may take such leave with or without pay to: seek legal or law enforcement assistance, seek medical attention for physical or mental injuries, obtain services from a domestic violence shelter or rape crisis center, obtain psychological counseling, or participate in safety planning.

An employee taking leave due to domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking must give his or her employer reasonable advance notice of the intent to take time off unless advance notice is not feasible.

Employers may not discharge or discriminate against employees for taking leave due to domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Employees may not lose pay or benefits that accrued before leave commenced. When an employee returns to work, the employee must be restored to the position of employment held before leave commenced or be restored to an equivalent position with equivalent employment benefits, pay, and other terms of employment.

Status: SSB 5900 is in the Senate Rules Committee where it can be placed on the calendar for a vote by the full Senate.

Action: Contact your Senator and ask them to vote YES on SB 5900.