



North Carolina Women United

2003 Legislative Report Card

NC Women United is a coalition of organizations and individuals committed to advancing public policies that support the full economic, legal and social equality of women. The 2003 Legislative Report Card reflects the legislative priorities identified by our member organizations as key to promoting women's equality. The "NCWU Response" indicates our position on each legislative item; legislation that is "pending" means that it is eligible for consideration in the 2004 Short Session because it either passed one body of the NC Legislature in 2003 or it has a budgetary impact. NCWU works to achieve its mission through legislative advocacy, community organizing and grassroots activism. For more information, see www.ncwu.org

~Access to Health Care~	Status	NCWU Response
Update insurance coverage for cervical and ovarian cancer screening (S388, S887)	Passed	↑
Establish a statewide Cervical Cancer Elimination Task Force (S648)	Passed	↑
Amend the state constitution to recognize health care as a fundamental right (H1098)	Not passed	↓
Require insurance coverage for mental health and chemical dependency to mirror that of physical health (H654)	Not passed	↓
Repeal involuntary sterilization of persons with mental illness unless medically necessary (H36, S617)	Passed	↑

Note: NCWU supports reproductive freedom for all women. During the 2003 Legislative Session, 14 bills were introduced that, if passed, would have undermined a woman's fundamental right to make personal and private childbearing decisions. NCWU opposed all 14 bills.

~Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention~	Status	NCWU Response
Update the curriculum in NC schools to reflect medically and factually accurate health education (S618, H873)	Not passed	↓

~Aging~	Status	NCWU Response
Study of a statewide system for criminal records checks, including long term care facilities (S34, H674)	Not passed	↓
Special Assistance In-Home Program (to maintain at home frail elderly persons eligible for assisted living) increased from 400 to 800 persons (S253, H170)	Included in Budget	↑

~Child Care~	Status	NCWU Response
Enhance the penalties for the operation of illegal day care centers (S877)	Passed	↑
Require that babies sleep on their backs in daycare centers to decrease SIDS and require DSS and local law enforcement to cooperate with medical community in child abuse/neglect investigations (H152)	Passed	↑
Prohibit dispensing medications to children in daycare without parental consent (S226, H109)	Passed	↑

NCWU overall view of this is: ↑ positive ↔ mixed ↓ negative

~Civil Rights~	Status	NCWU Response
Give local government the authority to enact anti-discrimination ordinances in line with federal anti-discrimination laws (S798)	Not passed	↓

~Clean Elections~	Status	NCWU Response
Provide a system for NC elections that complies with the federal Help America Vote Act and help prevent duplicate names on jury lists (H842, S858)	Passed	↑
Support public funds for free elections, encouraging local candidates to spend less on campaigns (S760)	Pending	↑
Allow for election day voter registration (S745)	Not passed	↓

~Domestic Violence~	Status	NCWU Response
Prohibit perpetrators in high risk domestic violence protective order cases from possessing or purchasing firearms (S919)	Passed	↑
Create a rebuttable presumption against awarding custody to a perpetrator of domestic violence (S718)	Pending	↔
Clarify that a victim of domestic violence is not required to have a protective order to qualify for unemployment benefits and may use other types of evidence (S439)	Passed	↑
Clarify that a victim of domestic violence may renew a protective order multiple times for "good cause" and ensure that consent orders are enforced appropriately (H840, S630)	Passed	↑
Enhance penalties for serious assaults committed in the presence of a minor child (H926)	Passed	↑

~Pay Equity and Living Wage~	Status	NCWU Response
Enact livable state minimum wage (H37)	Not passed	↓
Commission a study to discover the extent to which the lowest paid state employees are women and minorities; examine factors and remedies (H544, S747; H674)	Not passed	↓
Commission a study to determine what a true living wage is, how close North Carolinians are to earning it, and factors that contribute to earning or not earning it (H468, S742; H674)	Not passed	↓
Extend unemployment benefits to persons seeking part-time work, improve the definition of family hardship, improve regulation on benefits to those escaping domestic violence, improve regulations on spouses forced to relocate (S439)	Passed	↑

~Sexual Assault~	Status	NCWU Response
Create civil no-contact orders for sexual assault victims with no personal relationship with the offender (H951/S916)	Pending	↑
Require DNA samples and analysis of anyone convicted of a felony or violent crime or found not guilty of these by reason of insanity (H79, S7)	Passed	↔
Fund DNA analysis of unprocessed rape kits in law enforcement departments and investigate how many untested kits there are (H154, S13; S28)	Not passed	↓
Create the offense of sexual battery (H1044, S912)	Passed	↑

NCWU overall view of this is: ↑ positive ↔ mixed ↓ negative