



North Carolina Women United

2005 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. NCWU works to achieve its mission through legislative advocacy, community organizing and grassroots activism. The 2005 Legislative Report Card reflects legislative priorities that are key to promoting women's equality. These priorities have been identified by NCWU's member organizations and by the 2005 NC Women's Legislative Agenda, an outgrowth of NCWU's bi-annual Women's Agenda Assemblies. Bills in regular typeface were supported by NCWU; bills in italics were opposed. The "NCWU Response" column reflects NCWU's position on the legislative and/or budget status of each legislative item; items marked as pending are contingent upon passage, defeat, and/or funding status of legislative item. For more information, visit www.ncwu.org.

~Access to Health Care~	Legislative Status	Budget Status	NCWU Response
Mental Health Parity -Require parity in health insurance coverage for mental illness and chemical dependency. (HB893)	Not passed	N/A	↓
Health Care for All -Amend the state constitution to recognize health care as a fundamental right. (HB1358)	Pending	N/A	Pending
State Abortion Fund -The State Abortion Fund was included as a recurring item in the budget. However, the eligibility restrictions that bar women from accessing it were not changed.	N/A	N/A	↓
Public School Health Curriculum -Correct some of the medical inaccuracies and biased language in the state's currently mandated Abstinence Until Marriage school health curriculum. (HB1059)	Pending	N/A	Pending
Family Planning Medicaid Waiver -Money allocated to implement Family Planning Medicaid Waiver, expanding eligibility for family planning services for individuals living at or below 185% of the federal poverty level (previously 100%).	N/A	Funded	↑

Note: NCWU supports reproductive freedom for all women. During the 2005 Legislative Session, 13 bills were introduced that, if passed, would have undermined a woman's fundamental right to make personal and private childbearing decisions. NCWU opposed all 13 bills; none were passed.

~Civic Participation & Equality~	Legislative Status	Budget Status	NCWU Response
Voter-Owned Elections for Council of State -Provide candidates for certain council of state offices with the option of financing their campaigns from a publicly supported fund. (SB1042/HB1563)	Pending	N/A	Pending
Same-Day Registration at One-Stop Locations -Provides for in-person registration and voting at one-stop early voting sites. (HB851)	Pending	N/A	Pending
Lobbying Reform -Requires lobbyists to disclose spending over \$10 and to do so more frequently; also provides 6-month "cooling-off" period before legislators can become lobbyists. (SB612)	Passed	Funded	↑
Public Confidence in Elections -All voting machines must generate a paper ballot that voters can review to verify choices before their vote is cast. (SB223)	Passed	Funded	↑
Counting of Provisional Ballots -Clarifies that provisional ballots shall be counted for registered voters who vote in their home county but not their home precinct. (SB133)	Passed	Funded	↑
State Government Equal Employment Opportunity - Protect state employees from discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. (HB1203)	Not passed	N/A	↓
Hate Crimes/Matthew Shepard -Expand the state's hate crime law to include protections based on age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression and disability status. (SB485/HB1322)	Not passed	N/A	↓
Defense of Marriage -Amend the Constitution to provide that marriage is the union of one man and one woman, and this is the only marriage that is recognized as valid in NC. (SB8/HB55)	Pending	N/A	Pending

~Economic Self-Sufficiency~	Legislative Status	Budget Status	NCWU Response
State Gov't Fair Wage Funds/Fair Pay Study -Raise minimum wage for state employees from \$18,312 to \$20,112 annually; fair pay study for women included in bill but did not pass & remains eligible for the 2006 session. (SB908/HB928)	Passed	Funded	↑
Living Wage Act -Raise the state's minimum wage to \$6/hour. (HB330)	Pending	N/A	Pending
Increase NC Housing Trust Fund -Increase funding for Housing Finance Agency to build affordable housing from \$3M to \$8M. (SB330/HB435)	Passed	Funded	↑

~Violence Against Women~	Legislative Status	Budget Status	NCWU Response
Domestic Violence Recommendations -Creates a joint legislative committee to address domestic violence on an ongoing basis. (HB569)	Passed	Funded	↑
Clarify/Enhance Domestic Violence & Tenancy Laws -Improve landlord-tenant laws to protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking; enhance Chapter 50 & 50B. (SB1029)	Passed	N/A	↑
Termination of Parental Rights/ Murder of Parent by Parent Act – Provides for termination of parental rights of a parent who murders the other parent. (HB97)	Passed	N/A	↑
Domestic Violence Victims Empowerment Act - <i>Provides for victims to obtain expedited concealed handgun permits, placing the burden of protection on the victim and introducing a lethal weapon into a household with a history of violence.</i> (HB1311)	Passed	N/A	↓
Register Out-of-State Sex Offenders -Requires the DMV to notify all persons applying for a driver's license of North Carolina's sex offender registry requirements. (HB10 and SB125)	Not passed	N/A	↓
Sexual Battery/Sex Offender Registry -Require offenders of sexual battery to register as a sex offender for 10 years and submit DNA for CODIS. (HB1209)	Passed	Funded	↑
Sex Offender Amendments - <i>Allows victims of sexual assault who move to North Carolina to obtain 50C orders against any sex offender who lives within a quarter mile of the victim's residence or workplace, even if the two persons have never met. From a victim's advocacy standpoint, this bill would help to foster an environment of unnecessary fear and paranoia and might also encourage offenders to seek out and re-offend victims.</i> (HB1445)	Not passed	N/A	↑
Assault/Rape of a Child by Parent/Guardian -Enhances the penalty by one level for any person convicted of assaulting or raping a child 15 years or younger that the offender had any type of guardianship over. (HB1463)	Not passed	N/A	↓
Child Exploitation Prevention Act -Allows law enforcement to pose as children in online chat rooms in order to catch child predators. (SB472)	Passed	Funded	↑
Increase Rape Penalties/Helpless Victims -Increases the penalty for 2 nd degree rape and 2 nd degree sexual assault to a B2 felony. Further enhances 1 st degree rape and 1 st degree sexual assault to include victims who are mentally handicapped, incapacitated or physically helpless. (SB1039)	Pending	N/A	Pending

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

Bills in italics were NOT SUPPORTED by NCWU.