



## Washington State National Organization for Women

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### Session 2002 Wrap-up

What a difference a year makes... There is much to celebrate as the 2002 Legislative Session comes to a close. Some very important legislation was passed and some very bad legislation was killed. Here are some highlights of successful legislation that NOW actively supported:

**Family Care** – allows workers to use sick leave and other paid time off to care for a child (under 18, or of any age and disabled) with a medical condition requiring treatment or supervision, or to care for a spouse, parent, parent-in-law, or grandparent who has a serious health condition or an emergency condition. The bill becomes effective January 1, 2003.

**Unemployment insurance for victims of domestic violence and stalking** – allows individuals to qualify for unemployment insurance when the unemployment is necessary to protect the claimant or a member of their immediate family from domestic violence or stalking.

**Emergency Contraception in the Emergency Room** – requires that sexual assault victims who receive care in hospital emergency rooms must be informed of the existence of emergency contraception (EC), and that the hospitals must dispense EC if the patient requests it. This bill is one of the strongest in the nation in terms of requiring accurate information and dispensation when the woman asks for it.

A major force in our success this legislative session was the expert services of our lobbyist Lonnie Johns Brown. Her skills and knowledge combined with NOW's grassroots outreach via legislative alerts and action-grams provided critical input when and where needed.

For a more comprehensive overview of legislation that NOW was active on, please visit our web-site at [www.wa-now.org](http://www.wa-now.org). If you are interested in being on the legislative alert list for next session, please e-mail [mclogston@attbi.com](mailto:mclogston@attbi.com).