

WA State NOW - Legislative Update February 24, 2002

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 House members in support of SSB 6368 - Prescription drug education and utilization program

HB 1144 - Support Work-search Exemption for New Moms

WA State NOW supports legislation that would extend the exemption for new moms from the work-search requirement of welfare reform from the current 3 months to 12 months.

Status: Senate Health Care Public Hearing 2/21

Action: Call committee members in support

HB 1248 Unemployment Insurance for Victims of Domestic Violence and Stalking

HB – 1248 bill 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. HB 2211 gives victims access to the Crime Victims Compensation Fund. NOW supports HB 1248.

Status: Senate Labor & Commerce, public hearing 2/21

Action: Call committee members in support

HB 1444 Bullying

These bills require schools to develop policies to prohibit harassment, intimidation and bullying on school grounds and at school activities. Substitute bill provides some flexibility to local school districts and is widely supported.

Status: Senate Education, public hearing 2/20

Action: Call your senator in support – no changes!

HB 1663 and – Hate Crimes Increased penalties

In determining whether an exceptional sentence is appropriate, the court may consider whether the offender committed the offense because of the person's perception of the victim's race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or mental, physical, or sensory handicap.

Status: Senate Judiciary public hearing 2/25

Action: Call Senators in support

HB 2364/SB6426 Family Care

Taking unpaid time off to care for a sick and aging parent or child, a newborn or newly adopted child, or even for personal health reasons is a luxury many people can not afford.

WA State NOW supports family leave insurance and expanding the Family and Medical Leave Act to create family friendly policies in the workplace.

Status: HB has a public hearing on 2/26 in Senate Labor & Commerce, SB 2/27 8am House Commerce and Labor

Action: NOW is supporting the Senate Bill. Call your rep & senator to support SB 6426.

HB 2381 & SB 6407 Trafficking of Women and Children

At least seven hundred thousand persons annually, primarily women and children, are trafficked within or across international borders; with approximately fifty thousand women and children trafficked into the United States each year. Traffickers primarily target women and girls, who are disproportionately affected by poverty, the lack of access to education, chronic unemployment, discrimination, and the lack of economic opportunities in countries of origin. WA State NOW supports legislation that provides assistance to victims of trafficking.

Status: SB 6407 House Health Care Public Hearing 2/27 HB 2381 Senate Judiciary public hearing 2/26

Action: Call members in support

HB 2544 & SB 6524 Regulating the use of credit scoring in Insurance

Regulates the ability of insurance companies to use credit history when making decision to underwrite, deny, cancel, or refuse to renew a policy of personal insurance. NOW supports this bill as women often experience difficult financial times after a divorce or upon leaving an abusive situation.

Status: HB 2544 Senate Commerce & Labor public hearing 2/26; SB 6524 Financial Institutions and Insurance public hearing 2/27

Action: Call members in support

SB 5329 Allowing crime victims employment leave

Unless an employer would suffer undue hardship, the employer must grant leave from work to employees who are crime victims

Status: House Commerce & Labor public hearing 2/25

Action: Call Committee members in support

SB 5416 Chemically Dependant Pregnant Women - OPPOSE

Sets up procedures for identifying and screening pregnant and lactating women to determine whether an infant is at risk of drug affected due to the mother's use of non-prescriptive addictive drugs.

Status: House Children & Family Services public hearing 2/25

Action: Call Committee Members to oppose

SB 5451 Actions for crimes of violence motivated by gender

Develops a comprehensive prescription drug education and utilization system in Washington state that will improve prescription drug prescribing practices, increase consumer understanding of and compliance with appropriate use of prescription drugs, and improve prescription drug purchasing through a sound evidence-based process that evaluates the therapeutic value and cost-effectiveness of prescription drugs.

Status: House Judiciary public hearing 2/25

Action: Call committee members in support

SB 6368 –Prescription drug education and utilization program

Develops a comprehensive prescription drug education and utilization system in Washington state that will improve prescription drug prescribing practices, increase consumer understanding of and compliance with appropriate use of prescription drugs, and improve

prescription drug purchasing through a sound evidence-based process that evaluates the therapeutic value and cost-effectiveness of prescription drugs.

Status: House Health Care public hearing 2/26

Action: **Call committee members in support**

SB 6537 Emergency Contraception in ER

WA State NOW supports legislation that requires all emergency rooms to proactively offer emergency contraception to victims of sexual assault. Such a requirement would ensure that women are informed about emergency contraception and that they have ready access to emergency contraception, regardless of where they receive care.

Status: House Health Care public hearing 2/25

Action: **Call in support: Call members in support**

SB 6412 Regulating disclosure of information by international matchmaking organizations.

Requires each international matchmaking organization doing business in Washington state to disseminate to a recruit, upon request, state background check information and marital history information relating to any Washington state resident about whom any information is provided to the recruit, in the recruit's native language.

Status: House Commerce & Labor public hearing 2/25

Action: **Call in support**

For more information regarding WA State NOW's political positions, please refer to the web page at www.wa-now.org or call 206-788-0843. To find your district, who represents you, and any additional information about the legislature and the legislative process go to www.leg.wa.gov.