

WA State NOW - Legislative Update March 10, 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!)

As you can see from the attached list we have a lot to celebrate!!! But before we put our party hats on, we still need to deal with the operating budget. The House version makes way to many cuts in Health and Human Services, call your representatives and tell them that you prefer the Senate version.

### **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:** Passed Senate 3/7. On it's way to the Governor!

**Action:** Celebrate!

### **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:** Passed Senate 3/5. On it's way to the Governor!

**Action:** Celebrate!

### **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:** Passed Senate 3/5. On it's way to the Governor!

**Action:** Celebrate!

### **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:** Died in Senate Judiciary

**Action:** We'll try again next year!

### **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:** Both House and Senate versions have passed.

**Action:** NOW is supporting the Senate Bill. Call your rep & senator is support of senate bill

### **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:** House bill passed Senate, on it's way to the Governor!

**Action:** Celebrate

### **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 Passed Senate on it's way to the Governor!

**Action:** Celebrate

### **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:** Died on House Floor.

**Action:** We'll try again next year!

### **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:** Died in house

**Action:**

### **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:** Died in House Rules

**Action:** Try again next year

### **SB 6368 –Prescription rug 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:** On House Floor Calendar 3/9

**Action:**

### **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:** Passed the House on it's way to the Governor.

**Action: Celebrate!!!**

### **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:** Passed House on it's way to the Governor.

**Action: Celebrate!**

For more information regarding WA State NOW's political positions, please refer to the web page at [www.wa-now.org](http://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](http://www.leg.wa.gov).