



# North Carolina Women United

## Legislative Report Card for 2009

Released April 26, 2010




**NC Women United (NCWU) 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.**




**This is a Report Card on the 2009 session of the NC General Assembly. The Legislative Report Card for 2009 reflects legislative priorities that are key to promoting women's equality. These priorities have been identified by NCWU's member organizations and by the 2009 NC Women's Legislative Agenda, an outgrowth of NCWU's biennial local Women's Agenda Assemblies.**



**The "NCWU Response" indicator reflects NCWU's position on the legislative and/or budget status of each legislative item. For more information, visit [www.ncwu.org](http://www.ncwu.org).**






Access to Health Care	Legislative Status	Budget Status	NCWU Response
<b>Healthy Youth Act-</b> Expands the Healthy Living Curriculum and mandates that schools must include instruction on comprehensive sex education that is scientifically based, medically-accurate and addresses contraception, the prevention of unintended pregnancy as well as protection from sexually transmitted diseases. The new curriculum will be taught in 7-9th grade classes in public schools beginning in the 2010-2011 school year. (H88/S221/SL2009-213)	Passed	N/A	↑
<b>Home &amp; Community Care Block Grant Funds-</b> Increase Home and Community Care Block Grant Funds. Funding was reduced by \$500,000 for each year of the biennium; however, \$1.4 million from the Federal Recovery Act (stimulus) was provided for nutrition services. No new money was allocated. (H142/S185)	Not Passed	N/A	↓

Civic Participation & Equality	Legislative Status	Budget Status	NCWU Response
<b>Expand Voter-Owned Elections-</b> The NC Senate approved a bill to expand the successful Council of State program to include the office of State Treasurer. The program currently covers the Auditor, Superintendent of Public Instruction and Commissioner of Insurance. The bill also creates a dedicated source of funding for the VOE program from small fees on investment managers and insurance agents. Eligible for short session (H-586/S-966)	Pending	N/A	↔

<b>Public Municipal Campaigns-</b> This bill would authorize publicly financed campaigns at the local level for municipal elections in NC. Narrowly passed the House, but stalled in the Senate. This bill is eligible in 2010. (H120)	Pending	N/A	
<b>School Violence Prevention-</b> Requires school systems to adopt strong policies against bullying and harassment. The bill passed with the enumerated protected categories intact including race, sexual orientation and gender identity, among others. (H548/S526/SL2009-212)	Passed	N/A	
<b>Youth Pre-Registration-</b> Allows 16-17 year olds to fill out a pre-registration form to vote, particularly when they take the required civics course or sign up for a driver's license. It also requires county boards of elections to conduct registration drives at high schools each year, and broadens existing requirements for teaching students in civic classes about the voting process. (H908/SL2009-541)	Passed	N/A	

<b>Economic Self-Sufficiency</b>	<b>Legislative Status</b>	<b>Budget Status</b>	<b>NCWU Response</b>
<b>Healthy Families and Healthy Workplaces Act-</b> This bill will make workplaces more family-friendly by requiring employers to offer paid sick days to their employees to care for themselves or a family member in the event of illness. (S534/H177)	Pending	N/A	
<b>Minimum Wages/Inflation Increases-</b> This bill would require an annual increase of the minimum wage equal to the increase in cost of living. (H175/S1016)	Not Passed	N/A	
<b>Housing Trust Fund Appropriation-</b> For FY09-10, the Housing Trust Fund's recurring funding was sustained at \$10 million, one of the few budget items to be spared a cut. However, the non-recurring funding of \$7 million annually for housing for persons with disabilities was cut. (Appropriation)	N/A	Recurring funding maintained	

<b>Violence Against Women</b>	<b>Legislative Status</b>	<b>Budget Status</b>	<b>NCWU Response</b>
<b>Add Division of Law Enforcement Support Services to Crime Control and Public Safety-</b> Clarifies that the Division of Law Enforcement Support Services is a division of the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety. (S139/H201/SL2009-81)	Passed	N/A	
<b>Child Witness Testimony/Procedures-</b> Allows remote testimony in child witness criminal proceedings where the court determines that 1) the minor would suffer significant emotional distress by testifying in the defendant's presence and; 2) the minor's ability to communicate would be impaired. Remote testimony is a method by which a child witness (under the age of 16) testifies outside of the physical presence of the defendant. (H192/SL2009-356)	Passed	N/A	

<b>NC Human Trafficking Commission-</b> Within the Department of Administration, The Commission has the power to 1) conduct research on international and domestic trafficking, 2) help inform law enforcement, social service providers, and the general public so that traffickers may be prosecuted, 3) to identify gaps, suggest new policies, and develop strategies to eradicate further trafficking. (S353)	Pending	N/A	
<b>Funding for Sexual Assault Programs-</b> The Legislature increased protection and continued compensation for victims being served in Sexual Assault Programs. (Appropriation)	N/A	Funded	
<b>Domestic Violence Appropriations-</b> The DV community asked for the state to increase funding by \$2 million for domestic violence programs funded by the Council for Women/Domestic Violence Commission. No new money was allocated in the general fund; however, the marriage license fee was increased by \$10 to be allocated to the Domestic Violence Center Fund. (S227/H151)	Pending	N/A	
<b>Recommendations of Joint Domestic Violence Committee-</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clarifies purpose and membership of the Domestic Violence Commission.</li> <li>- Amends Chapter 50B to require a summons be issued which allows the Defendant to respond within 10 days.</li> <li>- Clarifies that ex parte orders are valid protective orders for purposes of enforcement.</li> <li>- Requires a study to determine the cost of a domestic violence protective order notification system which interfaces with the NC SAVAN system.</li> <li>- Requires the NC Domestic Violence Commission to study the issue of State oversight and coordination of services to victims of sexual violence. (S223/H115/SL2009-342)</li> </ul>	Passed	N/A	
<b>Protect Domestic Violence Shelters-</b> Ensures that local domestic violence programs will not be held liable for harmful acts committed by a perpetrator on their premises. Passed the Senate and awaits a House vote in 2010. (S144)	Pending	N/A	

**NCWU response is:**       **positive**       **negative**       **pending**

To see the text of a bill or to find the vote history for a bill, please visit [www.ncleg.net](http://www.ncleg.net).

For more information on the Women's Legislative Agenda and to view past Report Cards, please visit [www.ncwu.org](http://www.ncwu.org).