



2017 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Economic Success

WHY: In CT, nearly 172,000 family households are headed by women; approximately 23% of which fall below the poverty level. Increased access to jobs with sufficient wages and benefits will improve the financial security of our state's working families, especially those led by women, and will boost the state's economic growth. This session, CWEALF will advocate to:

Implement Paid Family and Medical Leave.

- No worker should be forced to choose between the job they need and the family they love. As chair of the Campaign for Paid Family Leave, CWEALF supports the creation of a wage replacement system to cover a serious illness, the birth or adoption of a new child, or caring for an ill family member or injured service member.

Promote Access to Good Jobs and Remove Barriers to Employment.

- Through the Campaign for a Working CT, promote investments in effective education & training programs to boost the state's economic competitiveness and lift families out of poverty.
- Reduce barriers to employment that prevent workers from securing and sustaining sufficient paying jobs. This includes protecting the state's child care subsidy, Care 4 Kids, from further cuts to eligibility.

Advance Fair Pay.

- Promote a livable wage that enables workers to achieve economic self-sufficiency.
- Create a path towards closing the gender wage gap by encouraging greater transparency in salaries and increase protections to identify and challenge discriminatory pay practices.

Access to Justice & Safety

WHY: The CT General Assembly took important steps last session to strengthen protections for victims of violence in our state. CWEALF supports measures to building on those steps and additional actions to promote fair family laws and increase access to civil legal assistance. This includes legislation to:

Strengthen Protections for Victims of Violence.

- Maintain critical funding for domestic violence and sexual assault services
- Improve existing laws protecting victims of violence, stalking, and human trafficking

Promote Fair Family Laws.

- Ensure the rights of women and other marginalized populations are represented in any amendments to laws related to custody, child support, and divorce.

Increase Access to Civil Legal Assistance.

- Support the recommendations of the Task Force to Improve Access to Legal Counsel in Civil Matters to protect the essential human needs of those who cannot afford legal representation.

OUR MISSION

CWEALF is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to empowering women, girls and their families to achieve equal opportunities in their personal and professional lives.



CONTACT CWEALF

One Hartford Square West, Suite 1-300
Hartford, CT 06106
cbailey@cwealf.org

Bodily Autonomy and Security

WHY: All people, regardless of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, should have access to comprehensive health and reproductive care. CWEALF supports measures to ensure women in CT are able to make their own decisions about their health and their bodies in an affordable, safe and accessible environment. This session, CWEALF supports actions to:

Ban Conversion Therapy,

- As part of the CT Equality Coalition, prohibit licensed mental health practitioners from subjecting LGBTQ minors to conversion therapy practices as an attempt to change or suppress their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Ensure Access to Complete, Local and Competent Health Care for All CT Women.

- Monitor hospital mergers, especially in cases where religious directives lead to a reduction in services for women.

Protect a Woman's Ability to Access Contraception and Reproductive Care.

- Support sustained funding for women's reproductive health care, especially for low-income women using Medicaid.
- Stand with Planned Parenthood and the Coalition for Choice to ensure that CT's commitment to women's reproductive rights remains steadfast.

Get Involved!

Are you passionate about CWEALF's legislative priorities? Follow CWEALF and/or the Campaign for Paid Family Leave on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter to stay updated and receive action alerts throughout the legislative session, which begins in January and ends in June. A few other ways to get involved in 2017:

- Write or call your legislator about an issue that matters to you. Unsure of who represents you? Visit projects.ctmirror.org/directory/ and search by your town.
- Testify in support or against a bill a you care about. Stay in the know by visiting cga.ct.gov regularly throughout the session to see a schedule of public hearings and track legislation.

