Paid Family & Medical Leave
CWEALF continues to lead the Campaign for Paid Family Leave. This year marked the fourth consecutive legislative session that the General Assembly introduced comprehensive paid leave legislation. Though H.B. 5387 passed both the Labor and Finance Committees, it was not called for a vote. Momentum and urgency for paid leave continues to grow across the state. Currently, more than 100 businesses are signed on in support of the Campaign.

Sexual Harassment Training and Protections
In response to the #MeToo and Time’s Up movements, the General Assembly introduced S.B. 132 to expand sexual harassment trainings in workplaces across the state, increase protections for victims and eliminate the statute of limitations in certain criminal sexual assault cases. Though S.B. 132 passed the Senate with bipartisan support, the House failed to call it for a vote.

Pay Equity
We were proud to convene and guide a bipartisan working group of advocates and lawmakers to champion P.A. 18–8: An Act Concerning Pay Equity. Connecticut now joins only four other states that prohibit employers from asking about salary history in the application process, a practice that perpetuates gender and racial wage gaps.

Access to Health Care
As a member of the Coalition for Choice, CWEALF applauded several victories critical to women’s reproductive freedom and access to comprehensive health care. Public Act No. 18–10 codifies into Connecticut law the Affordable Care Act’s “10 Essential Benefits” and ensures that, regardless of actions at the federal level, women in Connecticut will continue to have access to critical health care services, including contraception, cancer screenings and maternity coverage.
Reproductive Freedom
CWEALF supported the passage of P.A. 11–18, which allows pregnant women to exercise living wills, and P.A. 18–43, which allows women to obtain health insurance when they become pregnant. Both bills are critical components of reproductive freedom.

Domestic Violence
Lawmakers addressed Connecticut’s high rate of dual arrests with the passage of P.A. 18–5, which requires law enforcement to adopt a dominant aggressor standard to help prevent dual arrests of victims of domestic violence.

Minimum Wage
CWEALF testified in support of H.B. 5388 to raise the minimum wage to $15 per hour by 2021, given that more than 60% of minimum wage workers are women. House Bill No. 5388 passed the Labor and Appropriations Committee but was not called for a vote.

Fair Scheduling
CWEALF joined several groups to advocate for fair work week legislation to limit on-call scheduling. Unfortunately, the bill did not pass.

The fight continues!
We won’t let up the fight for women’s economic security in our state. Every day, women face financial penalty when they need to take time off to care for a loved one or recover from their own illness. Every day, women face harassment at work. Every day, women, especially women of color, fall short to make ends meet as the majority of the minimum wage workforce in our state. Though the legislative session is over, we will continue to make sure women’s priorities are heard loud and clear at the State Capitol.

Incarcerated Women
Connecticut took a clear stand to support incarcerated women with the passage of P.A. 18–4: An Act Concerning the Fair Treatment of Incarcerated Persons. The law is among the strongest protections in the nation for pregnant women and transgender individuals who are incarcerated.

Connect with us!
Facebook.com/CWEALF
@CWEALF
@PaidLeaveforCT

Contact: Maddie Granato: mgranato@cwealf.org; 860–610–6051