

BPW COLORADO



LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE 2023

PRESENTED BY EVIE HUDAK, BPW COLORADO PRESIDENT

AGENDA

- 8:45 a.m. Zoom opens for networking
- 9:00 a.m. Welcome and review of BPW Colorado's advocacy process
- 9:30 a.m. Review of NFBPWC Advocacy Platform vs. Colorado's Platform - recommendations
- 10:15 a.m. Break
- 10:30 a.m. Presentation by Ashley Wheeland –
 - Bills supported by the Women's Lobby of Colorado
- 11:15 a.m. Presentation by Dani Newsum from Cobalt –
 - The state of reproductive rights in CO since Dobbs



BPW COLORADO PROCESS FOR TAKING POSITIONS ON BILLS

BPW'S PROCESS FOR ADVOCACY

- Bills are selected for review based on BPW Colorado's **Advocacy Platform**.
- The Legislative Bills Subcommittee, which has one representative from each chapter, meets on the 1st Thursdays and 3rd Mondays at 6:30 p.m. during the legislative session.
- This committee determines BPW's positions on selected bills.
- BPW's positions are shared with the Women's Lobby of Colorado, which does most of the lobbying.
- Occasionally, BPW focuses on one or two key bills and advocates directly with legislators on them.



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BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IN COLORADO

HOW LAWS ARE MADE

1. Legislators have bills drafted, which are given a number and assigned to committee(s).
2. **Committee hearing(s):** Bills must be passed by committee(s) to continue; *this is the only opportunity for the public to testify.*
3. Bills are passed on 2nd Reading (amendment phase) and 3rd Reading (final passage).
4. Repeat steps 2-3 in the other chamber (*bills keep their original number*).
5. The Governor has 30 days to sign or veto the bill; once it becomes law, it is called an “Act.”

EXTRA STEPS FOR BILLS WITH A COST


- If a bill requires funding, the bill will have a “Fiscal Note” which explains what the cost is and tells where the money will come from (*fees, federal funds, state General Fund, or grants*).
- If the bill requires more than \$3,000 of state funding, it will be assigned/referred to the Appropriations Committee. *No testimony is allowed in a hearing of this committee.*
- If a bill passes the Appropriations Committee, it will have an “appropriations clause” added.



THE MAIN PAGE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WEBSITE
[HTTP://LEG.COLORADO.GOV](http://leg.colorado.gov)

BPW ADVOCACY PLATFORM

The BPW Advocacy Platform is organized around three priorities:

 • Economic Equity and Justice

 • Health Equity and Justice

 • Human Rights



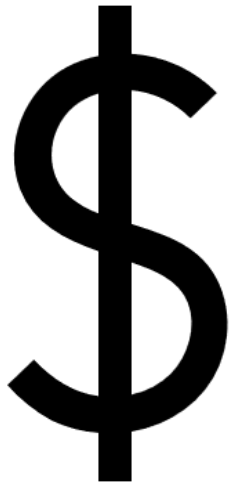
ECONOMIC EQUITY AND JUSTICE \$

Economic Equity and Justice

- Access to pay equity and retirement equity
- Access to education, training, and promotional opportunities
- Access to equal opportunities in the workplace and corporate boards
- Access to women business enterprise procurement process
- Access to quality, affordable dependent care (child, elderly or disabled)
- Access to funding and capital for entrepreneurial activity
- Access to affordable and attainable housing

Proposed addition (to align with NFBPWC's Advocacy Platform):

- **DISALLOW FORCED ARBITRATION AS A SOLE MEANS OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION.**



ECONOMIC EQUITY AND JUSTICE

BILLS OF INTEREST:

SB23-007, Adult Education – **SUPPORT**

SB23-105, Ensure Equal Pay for Equal Work –
SUPPORT

HB23-1052, Modified Property Tax Exemption for
Veterans With Disabilities – **SUPPORT**

HB23-1078, Unemployment Compensation Dependent
Allowance – **SUPPORT**

HB23-1091, Continuation of Child Care Contribution Tax
Credit – **SUPPORT**

HB23-1120, Eviction Protections for Coloradans –
SUPPORT



HEALTH EQUITY AND JUSTICE

Health Equity and Justice

- Access to affordable care for all ✨
- Reproductive choice
- Paid sick leave
- Family and medical leave
- Equal research funding for women's and girl's health issues
- Health education funding for women's and girl's health issues
- Health education funding for women and girls
- Prevention of pregnancy and infant care discrimination in the workplace (reasonable accommodations for breast feeding/breast pumping and pregnancy related conditions)
- Ensure workplace safety
- Expansion of mental health coverage and services

✨ *Proposed change to (to align with NFBPWC's Advocacy Platform):*

- **Access to affordable ~~care for all~~ REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE, INCLUDING CONTRACEPTION AND LEGAL ABORTION CARE.**



HEALTH EQUITY AND JUSTICE

BILLS OF INTEREST:

SB23-017, Additional Uses for Paid Leave – **SUPPORT**

SB23-046, Average Weekly Paid Leave Benefits – **SUPPORT**

HB23-1077, Informed Consent to Intimate Patient Examinations– **SUPPORT**

HB23-1088, Veterans Mental Health Session Reimbursement Program – **SUPPORT**

HB23-1119, Abolishing Abortion in Colorado – **OPPOSE**



HUMAN RIGHTS

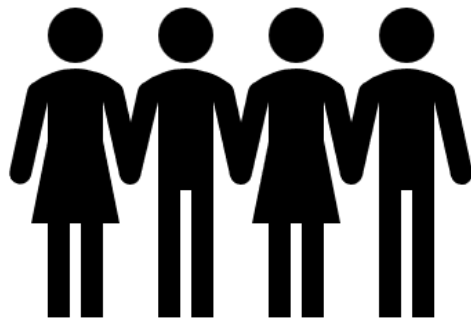


Human Rights – recognition that women’s rights are human rights

- Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)
- Passage of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Eradicate domestic violence and the electronic and physical stalking, sexual harassment, sexual abuse and discrimination
- Oppose human trafficking, sexual exploitation and slavery
- Equal education opportunity, including adequate funding of public education, preschool through postsecondary
- Support equal rights for LGBTQ+ persons
- Support equal treatment of and end discrimination against minority women
- Support policies and practices that promote environmental sustainability
- Support the endeavors of and improve conditions for military-affiliated women
- Support equitable treatment of women in the criminal justice system, including health and hygiene
- Support gun sense measures to protect lives and ensure safety
- Support the protection and equitable treatment of all immigrants and those seeking refuge

✦ *Proposed change (to align with NFBPWC’s Advocacy Platform):*

- Support equal treatment of and end discrimination against ~~BIPOC (black, indigenous, and people of color), minority, and marginalized~~ ALL women.



HUMAN RIGHTS

BILLS OF INTEREST

SB23-016, Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Standards – **SUPPORT**

HB23-1057, Amenities for All Genders in Public Buildings – **SUPPORT**

HB23-1098, Women's Rights in Athletics – **OPPOSE**

HB23-1107, Crime Victims Services Funding – **SUPPORT**

HB23-1161, Environmental Standards for Appliances – **SUPPORT**

HB23-1165, County Authority to Prohibit Firearms – **SUPPORT**

BPW & THE WOMEN'S LOBBY



BPW Colorado is a member of the Women's Lobby of Colorado (WLC).

Mission of the WLC

The Women's Lobby of Colorado seeks to provide better opportunities for women in our state by ensuring that public policies reflect gender equity and justice.

By consistently maintaining a daily lobbying presence at Colorado's Capitol, our all-volunteer organization has kept the needs of women front and center in our state's public policy debates for more than a decade.

PRESENTATION from WOMEN'S LOBBY OF COLORADO –

by ASHLEY WHEELAND, Board member



- Director of Hunger Free Colorado
- Previously served as:
 - Policy Attorney at Colorado Consumer Health Initiative
 - Senior Director of Policy and Advocacy for Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains
- Previously worked with:
 - Members of State Legislature
 - Members of Congress
 - Governor's staff on health care and food

PRESENTATION FROM COBALT –

DANI NEWSUM

DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

- Former talk-show host on radio and KBDI-Channel 12 public affairs program "Colorado Inside Out."
- Managed the ACLU of Colorado's education and outreach efforts.
- Led education and communications at the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Community Center of Colorado.
- Directed the City of Boulder's Human Rights Office.
- Served as an assistant attorney general for civil rights and labor in the Colorado Attorney General's Office.

