

# BPW COLORADO

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## LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE 2023

PRESENTED BY EVIE HUDAQ, 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
- 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

vs.



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## BPW COLORADO PROCESS FOR TAKING POSITIONS ON BILLS

# BPW'S PROCESS FOR ADVOCACY

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- 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 1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

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# HOW LAWS ARE MADE

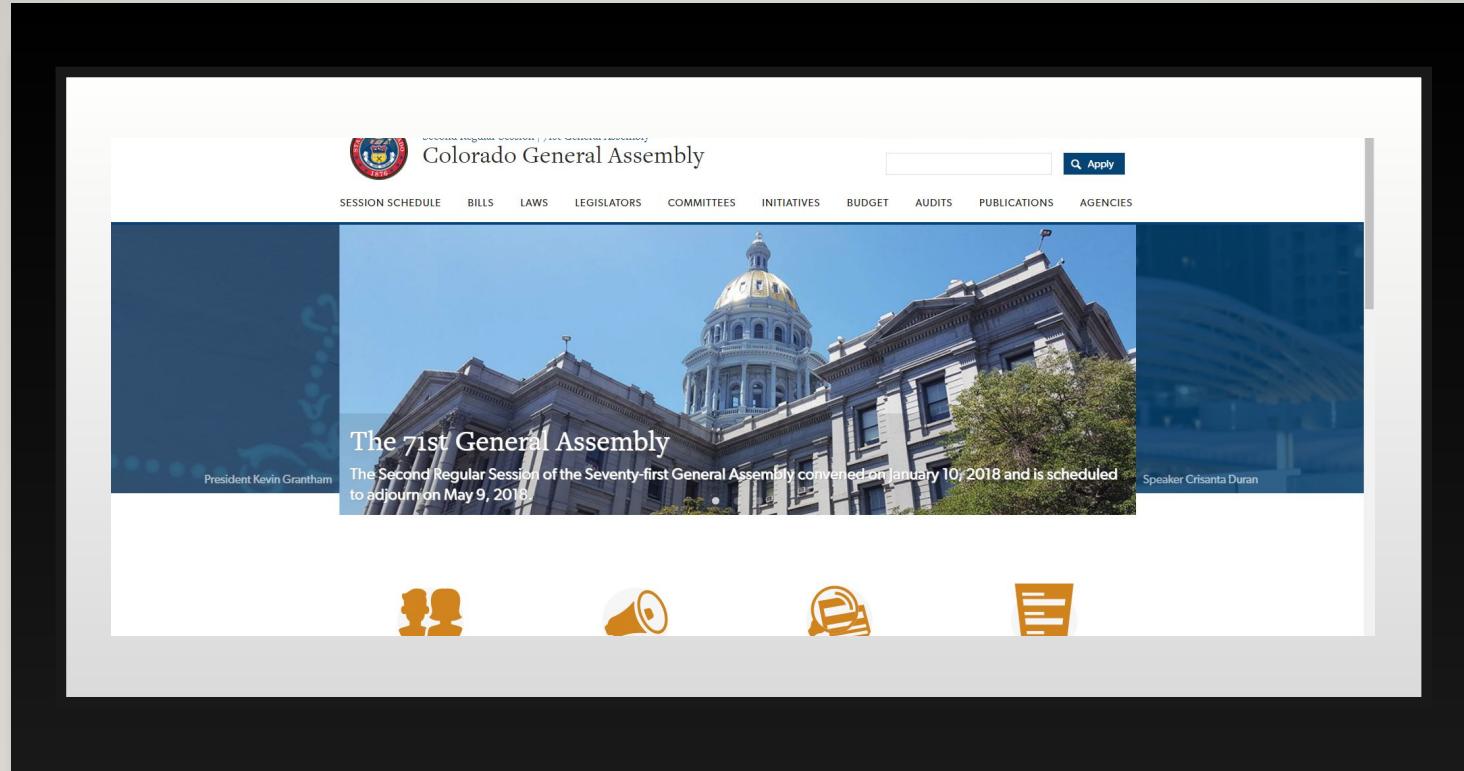
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1. Legislators have bills drafted, which are given a number and assigned to committee(s).
2. **Committee hearing(s):** Bills must be passed by committee(s) to continue; *this is the only opportunity for the public to testify.*
3. Bills are passed on 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading (amendment phase) and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

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- 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

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The BPW Advocacy Platform is organized around three priorities:



- Economic Equity and Justice



- Health Equity and Justice



- Human Rights



# ECONOMIC EQUITY AND JUSTICE \$

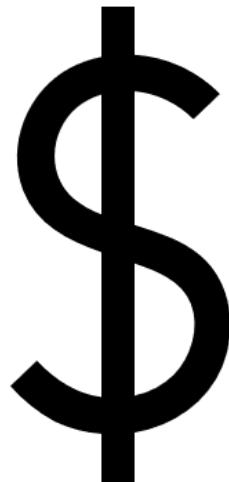
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## Economic Equity and Justice

- 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

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### 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

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## 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:

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*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

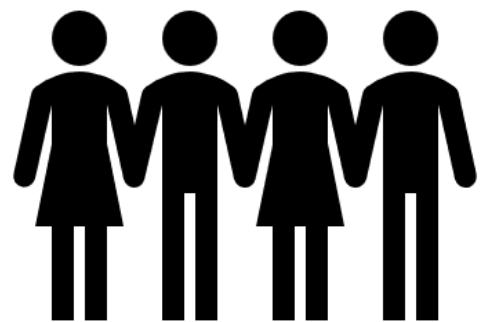


**Human Rights** – recognition that women's rights are human rights

- 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

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*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**

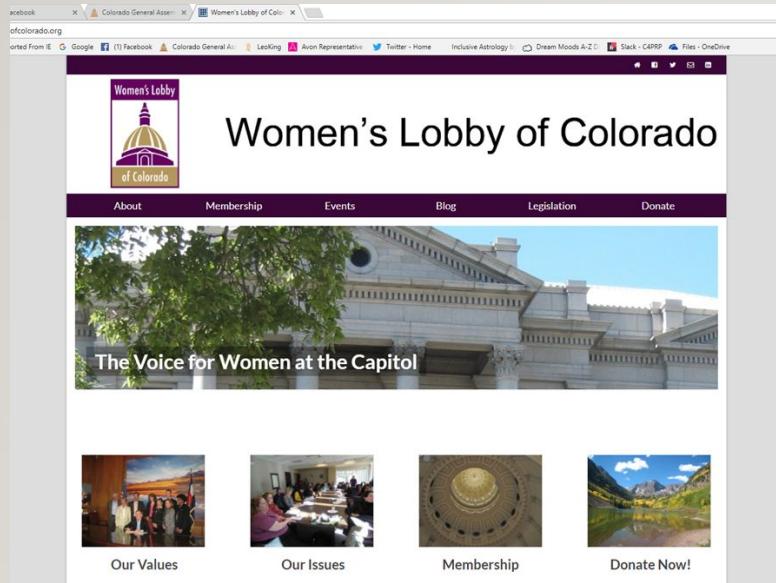
*HB23-1107, Crime Victims Services Funding* – **SUPPORT**

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

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

# BPW & THE WOMEN'S LOBBY

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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.

