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## Maine Women's Lobby News Letter (1991 - January) No. 2

Maine Women's Lobby Staff

*Maine Women's Lobby*

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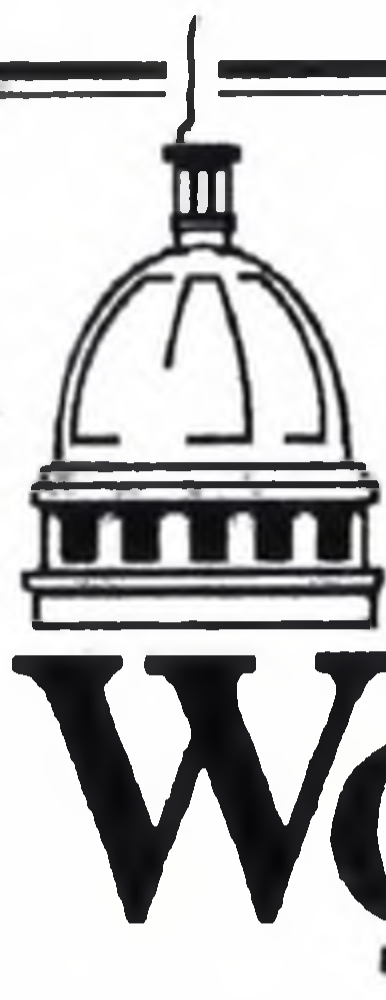
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# Maine Women's Lobby

P.O. Box 15, Hallowell, Maine 04347  
Telephone 622-0851

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January 1991

NEWSLETTER

Number 2

## MWL Legislative Report:

# Budget crisis dominates New Year

by Joanne D'Arcangelo  
MWL Lobbyist

The Maine Legislature convened for full-time business on January 4th with the state's fiscal crisis as the dominant theme of the New Year. At the moment, the estimated deficit for the remainder of the *current* fiscal year ending June 30th was pegged at \$146 million, with a mind-boggling \$750 to 800-million deficit – representing almost 24 percent of the entire state budget – looming for the '92-'93 biennium ahead.

The challenge for The Lobby and allied organizations representing women, children, and the poor is unprecedented. The 15% cutbacks called for by the Governor will have a devastating impact on programs and services we have worked hard to establish and preserve over the last two decades; and these reductions, which are the minimum necessary to balance the FY '91 budget, represent only the tip of the iceberg.

A one-day session prior to Christmas ended in a stalemate as the Legislature and the Governor failed to agree on a budget-balancing scheme that proposed borrowing from the state retirement funds. Since then, the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs has been holding marathon sessions reminiscent of the end-of-the-session squeeze in past years. But, as of press-time, a mutually acceptable alternative has yet to be developed. And there appears to be little progress in negotiations between the Legislature and the Governor.

This month's **Legislative Report** summarizes some consequences of the 15% cutbacks in human services proposed by the Governor and currently being examined by the Appropriations Committee. This is a limited list reviewing only selected programs and services affecting women and families. *Again, these cuts represent only those necessary to balance the budget in the remaining six months of the current fiscal year, and they will be*

see **LEGISLATIVE REPORT** continued on page 6

## Lobby urges equity in deficit solution

On January 9th, The Maine Women's Lobby and allied organizations representing women, children, and low-income citizens held a press conference to condemn the budget cuts proposed by the Department of Human Services, which will disproportionately affect women, children, and poor families.

The Lobby argued that the proposed reductions in the Maine Health Program, AFDC, Medicaid, the Medically Needy Program, and in child care (more than \$500,000 worth) are not only punitive but also short-sighted. Such cuts, which will force sick people to seek charity care, poor families to seek General Assistance, and working parents who need day care to lose their jobs. They are really **hidden taxes** that will be far more expensive in the long term.

see **EQUITY** continued on page 3



*Message from the Chair*

# This is the time to be active!

by **Eleanor Goldberg**  
MWL Chair 1990-91

MWL welcomes Nancy Kenniston to the Board of Directors. Nancy, who lives in Augusta, is the Director of the Bureau of Human Resources at the Department of Administration.

Nancy fills a board position that had been previously held by Aimee DesRoches, who was active on MWL's Legislative Committee and who remains a staunch advocate for rural women. We appreciate all of Aimee's hard work, as well as the perspective she offered—one that we often needed to hear. Thanks, Aimee and Welcome, Nancy!

\* \* \* \* \*

The MWL Board is deeply concerned about the impact the state's budget crisis and the proposed cuts will have on women and children and on programs for which we have battled long and hard. The Maine Women's Lobby cannot sit idly by and let the state budget be balanced on the backs of women and children!! Therefore, the Lobby took the lead in organizing a press conference (see page 4) in which 31 allied groups called for a responsible, progressive and immediate increase in taxes to avert the specific budget cuts that will affect our most vulnerable citizens.

The proposed cuts include: elimination of medical coverage for low-income adults under the Maine Health Program; termination and reduction in benefits for 4,000 families currently receiving AFDC; disqualification of more than 1,300 poor families with children receiving medical care under the Medicaid program; cutting the majority of state-funded child care vouchers for children of working parents; and the loss of job training services for 1,500 ASPIRE recipients.

We recognize that revenue increases may have to be coupled with certain spending cuts and that tax increases are unlikely to make a difference in this fiscal year,

however, we will not just watch from the sidelines while so many critical programs are being destroyed.

**THIS IS THE TIME TO BE ACTIVE!!** Talk to your legislators and tell them that these cuts are unacceptable. Tell them to cut the fat and not the muscle. Most concerned citizens recognize that taxes will have to be raised sooner or later—let's bite the bullet now and figure out a way to increase taxes fairly and progressively.

With a membership as diverse as the Lobby's, I'm sure that not everyone will agree that a tax increase is necessary. Whatever your opinion, I'd like to suggest that we view this fiscal crisis as an opportunity for solidarity and community—to safeguard the people and the programs for which we have worked and to champion the issues in which we believe. Most of us are members of the Lobby because we share a common vision. During these

difficult times, let's not forget that vision and let's be as supportive as we can of each other and of the legislators with whom we work.

Finally, I would like to relay a message of appreciation to our membership for your ideas, your participation and, of course, your support. **THANKS!!**

P.S. Hope to see you at the **BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS** on Thursday, January 24th, 7:30 a.m., Holiday Inn by the Bay!

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*"The Maine Women's Lobby cannot sit idly by and let the state budget be balanced on the backs of women and children!"*

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The **Maine Women's Lobby Newsletter** is the official publication of The Maine Women's Lobby. **Eleanor Goldberg**, Chair. **Joanne D'Arcangelo**, Lobbyist. Address correspondence to:

**Maine Women's Lobby**  
**PO Box 15**  
**Hallowell, ME 04347**



Telephone:  
**622-0851**

P.O. Box 15, Hallowell Maine 04347



# Lobby urges equity; members called to action

(continued from page 1)

The Lobby drafted the following Resolution, which was adopted by more than 30 allied groups and constituted the central theme of the press conference: **to save a generation of public policy and programs aimed at bringing women up from poverty to opportunity, a responsible solution the current budget crisis must include an equitable and progressive increase in taxes.** The budget gap cannot be closed with cuts alone without devastating programs we have worked for decades to establish and preserve!

We urge ALL Lobby members to:

1) Call or write Governor McKernan and urge him

to rescind his pledge to veto any taxes to address this year's (FY '91) budget crisis, and to initiate a solution that will include a progressive tax increase;

2) Call or write your State Representative and State Senator and let them know you support a solution that includes a progressive tax increase, and urge them to initiate such a proposal in their party caucuses (1-800-423-6900 for Senators, 1-800-423-2900 for State Reps.);

3) Sign and/or circulate the coupon below and mail copies to both the Governor and your legislators immediately!



Governor John R. McKernan  
State House Station #1  
Augusta, ME 04333  
289-3531

State Senators and  
State Representatives  
State House Station #2  
Augusta, ME 04333

## RESOLUTION

We/I, the undersigned, condemn the cuts affecting women, children, low-income, and other vulnerable citizens proposed by the Administration, including but not limited to:

- Elimination of medical coverage for low-income adults under the Maine Health Program;
- Termination and reduction of benefits for 4,000 families with children currently receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children;
- Disqualification of more than 1,300 poor families with children receiving medical care under the Medicaid program;
- Cutting most state-funded vouchers for children of working parents;
- Loss of job-training services for 1,500 ASPIRE recipients; and
- Reductions that will severely limit Rape Crisis Centers and Battered Women's Shelters from serving victims of sexual and domestic abuse.

THEREFORE, we/I urge action by both the Governor and the Legislature in asking that the state budget not be balanced at the expense of its most vulnerable citizens, as is now proposed, but instead include responsible, equitable, and progressive increases in tax revenue.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(address)



**7:30 a.m. JAN. 24th, PORTLAND –**

## ***Come to the MWL "Breakfast of Champions"***

That's what we are!

To celebrate the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, come join us on Thursday, January 24 at 7:30 a.m., Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland, and feel great about what we've been able to accomplish in Maine:

- squashing the parental notification referendum,
- defeating numerous anti-choice bills,
- passing legislation that gives thousands of low-income women and teens access to reproductive health services.

This legislative session we can continue that winning streak, but we need to work hard. Spousal notification, clinic licensing, and informed consent are all on the legislative agenda of the Maine Right to Life Committee.

The **Maine Choice Coalition's** agenda includes Medicaid funding of abortions. The smart money may say we don't have a chance but we've heard that before. With your help, the option of terminating a pregnancy will become a reality for low-income women in Maine.

Joanne D'Arcangelo (current), and Vendean Vafiades and Betsy Sweet (former), Maine Women's Lobby Champions, will provide the inspiration and training we need to win!

So, come join us for a BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS (eggs, bacon, muffins, coffee and juice) and find out what steps we need to take to keep our title. For reservations or more information, call the Lobby office (622-0851) or Eleanor Goldberg (773-0321).

## **Women's Lobby organizes Press Conference**

The Maine Women's Lobby held a press conference on January 9, the day of the Appropriations Committee's hearing on the Department of Human Services' proposed cuts. Joanne D'Arcangelo presented a statement signed by 31 allied organizations criticizing the administration's budget cuts as hidden taxes on Maine's women and children and calling for above board, progressive taxes to solve the current fiscal crisis.

The Lobby is among the first advocacy organizations to call on both the administration and the legislature to discuss the merits of increasing revenue through the income tax, the most progressive, equitable vehicle available. The 31 allied organizations joining in the Lobby's statement are:

- MAINE ASSOCIATION OF INTERDEPENDENT NEIGHBORHOODS (M.A.I.N.)
- MAINE COALITION OF FAMILY CRISIS SERVICES

-Abused Women's Advocacy Project (Auburn)  
 -Family Crisis Shelter (Portland) -Battered Women's Project (Caribou/Houlton) -Family Violence Project (Augusta) -New Hope for Women (Rockland) -Spruce Run Association

(Bangor) -Womancare (Dover-Foxcroft) - WomanKind (Machias) -Caring Unlimited (Sanford)

- MAINE COALITION AGAINST RAPE
  - Rape Crisis Center (Portland) -Downeast Rape Services (Ellsworth) -Bath/Brunswick Rape Crisis Center -Sexual Assault Helpline (Presque Isle) -Sexual Assault Victims' Emergency Services (Farmington) -Rape Crisis Assistance (Waterville) -Augusta Area Rape Crisis Center -Rape Response Services (Bangor) -Lewiston/Auburn Sexual Assault Crisis Center -Rape Education and Crisis Hotline (Norway/South Paris)
- FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION
- MAINE HOME ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION
- MAINESHARE
- MAINE LESBIAN/GAY POLITICAL ALLIANCE
- AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, MAINE CHAPTER
- NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN, MAINE CHAPTER
- NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN, SOUTHERN MAINE SECTION
- KENNEBEC VALLEY COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM



# Local action network grows

The Maine Women's Lobby is organizing a **local action network** designed to bring the Lobby closer to its members and, most importantly, to bring its membership closer to its legislative representatives. Close to 20 MWL members have volunteered to help organize this action network by becoming Local Lobby Coordinators (LLCs).

Legislators listen to their constituents. So the first priority of an LLC is to contact other MWL members to organize a telephone tree or letter-writing campaign in their local area. Other LLC activities include sponsoring a gathering of MWL members and potential members to meet with MWL Board members and the Lobbyist. At these meetings, or "house parties," updates of what's happening at the State House are given and ways to influence legislation are shared. It is also a nice way to connect informally with others who share your concerns and issues. In addition, an LLC may convene constituent

meetings with local legislators or organize a "How To Lobby" workshop where a member of the Board of Directors or the MWL Lobbyist conducts a training session on effective lobbying. Lobby Board members are glad to work with LLC's to coordinate events.

LLC's can also assist the MWL to develop and maintain its membership base. We have found that personal contact is the best way to recruit people to join (and rejoin) the Lobby. Remember, the more members we have, the less money we need to raise from other sources and the more able we are to influence legislation at a grass-roots level.

Many members ask how they can be more active in the MWL. Becoming an LLC is one very important way to do so! Anyone can become an LLC by calling the MWL office, or by calling Tory Leuteman at 594-2551 (work) or 582-6269 (home).

## Retreat planned You're invited (and it's free!)

The Board of Directors of Maine Women's Lobby is holding a **Brainstorming Session** on Sunday, Feb. 3, 1991, (9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

The morning session (9:30-12) will focus on the Lobby's fundraising strategy – what's working and what's not. We'll try to develop an action plan with specific recommendations for future fundraising strategies.

The afternoon session (1-4:30) will focus on the newly formed **Women's Development Institute** and its mission. We'll look at potential funding sources, i.e. foundations, grants, etc. This is a great opportunity to get in on the ground floor and help shape the institute!

The retreat will be at: **The Family Planning Office**  
565 Western Avenue  
Augusta, Maine

Phone - 622-0851 or 773-0321 for more information.

A copy of the by-laws of the Women's Development Institute is available upon request

**MEMBERSHIP INPUT AND PARTICIPATION IS WARMLY WELCOMED!!**

We'll even provide the coffee, bagels and light lunch. If you have ideas, feedback or suggestions, this is your chance – Please write or call if you can't come:

P.O. Box 15, Hallowell, ME 04347

## Don't Escape "The Great Escape" raffle

The Lobby raffle is generating an enthusiastic response from the membership and the public. Make sure that you, your friends, and your colleagues have a chance to win our great prizes by selling the tickets that were mailed to you in December. You can win:

- Two nights for two at the **Briar Rose Bed & Breakfast** in Round Pond on Pemaquid Peninsula
- Two nights for two at the **Pointed Fir Bed & Breakfast** in Tenant's Harbor - a ferry's ride from Monhegan Island
- Tickets for two to a **Boston Celtics** game
- An **all-day sail and picnic lunch** for two around Muscongus Bay

The drawing will be held at the Lobby's annual cocktail party in Augusta on April 9 so there is plenty of time left to sell your tickets. Additional tickets can be obtained by calling the Lobby office at 622-0851 or writing to us at P.O. Box 15, Hallowell, 04347.



## Legislative Report continued from page 1

*dwarfed by those that will be proposed to solve the \$750-800 million shortfall predicted for the upcoming '92-'93 biennium.*

The Lobby and its allies have issued a call to both the Legislature and Governor that a responsible solution to the current and future budget deficits must include an equitable and progressive increase in tax revenues. For a responsible solution to be found, the debates about spending reductions and tax increases must be conducted concurrently. To deny the need for any tax increases concedes to program cuts that will have a devastating, long-term impact on those least able to afford it: women, children, and the poor.

### PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES:

#### THEIR IMPACT ON WOMEN AND FAMILIES

**1. Child Care Vouchers cut for most working families.** This proposal would cut \$400,000 from the child-care voucher program and would eliminate most vouchers for working families. The elimination of six of the ten child-care resource development centers is also proposed, as is a \$178,000 reduction in employer-supported child-care programs.

These cuts will result in the loss of employment for many of these families with subsequent increases in AFDC, food stamps, and Medicaid, and could result in a loss of significant federal matching child-care dollars.

**2. Across-the-board cuts proposed in agencies delivering social services.** A 2.6% across-the-board cut is proposed in all services delivered by community agencies, including domestic violence shelters and rape-crisis centers. Complete elimination of the York County Rape Crisis Center is proposed.

**3. Cutting \$21,000 from Community Family Planning program,** thereby eliminating contraceptive services to approximately 500 low-income women, including 165 teens. It is estimated that these cuts could result in

\$148,732 subsequent expense in social services to low-income women with unintended births.

**4. Reduce by 50% the Family Services program,** which provides case-management and pre-training to more than 900 teen parents. Reduced capacity of this program will possibly result in higher drop-out rates and an increase in untimely, unintended teen pregnancies. The cuts will also result in a loss of federal matching monies.

**5. Elimination of "Gap" in AFDC Budgeting.** Under this proposal, 1,500 families (including approximately 3,000 children) currently receiving AFDC will lose their benefits entirely, and benefits to 2,500 more families will be reduced. This proposal affects all AFDC families who are now working or receiving child support.

Currently, families are permitted to keep the amount of any earned income or child support that "fills the gap" between the so-called "standard of need" and the "payment standard." Any income in excess of this "gap" is counted to reduce their grant.

Under the Department's proposal, income will be deducted directly from the payment standard. This means that families will get significantly less economic benefit from working, thus creating a disincentive to work. It also means that a family will be able to keep only \$50 per month of any child-support paid on its behalf. The rest will be kept by the Department after repayment to the federal government for its share of assistance provided.

The current AFDC payment standard equals only one-half of the poverty level, or \$453 a month for a mother and two children. These cuts will increase demand for general assistance provided by local municipalities, and will result in a shift in the source of assistance to these families from the federal and state governments to the state government and municipalities.

**6. Elimination of coverage for adults by the Maine Health Program** would totally eliminate health insurance coverage for low-income adults under the new Maine Health Program. 5,259 adults have been enrolled in the Program since it began on Oct. 1, 1990. The loss of this benefit to adults will result in increased cost to hospitals under their charity care rule – costs which will in turn be passed along to all people purchasing health insurance.

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*"To deny the need for tax increases concedes to program cuts that will have a devastating long-term impact . . ."*

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\* Defeat of Anti-Choice Bills

\* Funding for Child Care

\* Family Medical Leave Act

\* Joint Custody-Divorce Law

\* Coverage for Screening Mammograms



\* Welfare Reform

\* Rape Crisis Shelters

\* Battered Women's Shelters

\* Criminalization of Marital and Date Rape

### THIS IS IT: THE 1991 ANNUAL APPEAL!

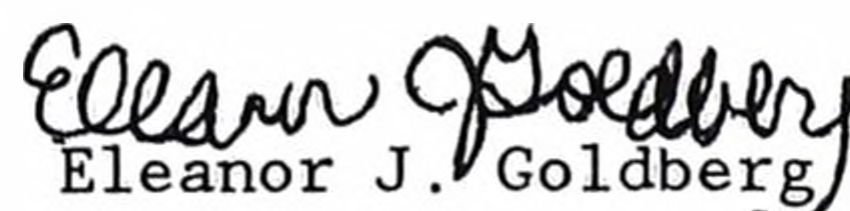
We appreciate your membership and raffle support. As you know, the money raised through those two activities covers less than half of the Lobby's expenses. Additional funds are needed to ensure our ability to maintain a full-time lobbyist in Augusta. We know that the economic climate has made each of us more thoughtful in our personal spending, but a contribution to the Lobby is an investment in our future and will make a difference in the life of every woman in Maine.

Roe v. Wade gave us the right to reproductive choice. Now, eighteen years later, in the wake of the Webster decision, the right that we thought was ours forever is threatened, and the first point of attack is in the state legislature. The Maine Right to Life Committee has hired a full-time lobbyist of its own and has introduced legislation that would impose burdensome requirements on women seeking abortions.

Our right to choose is just one of many issues affecting the quality of our lives. Equally important are economic opportunities, access to health care, protection from domestic violence and the preservation of programs and services for women and families. The Lobby's leadership in these areas is undisputed. Just a few of our past achievements are noted above; our current legislative agenda is described in the January issue of the newsletter.

The Lobby's success in passing legislation promoting the health and well-being of women has rested on the skill and vigilance of our full-time lobbyist. Given the threats from anti-choice forces and the proposed state budget cuts, the Lobby's visibility, credibility and experience are more important than ever.

The Lobby is only as strong as its members. Your commitment to improving the social, political and economic climate for women in Maine is the source of the Lobby's success. We ask you to give generously to the Annual Appeal.

  
Eleanor J. Goldberg

Chair

Maine Women's Lobby



**7. Elimination of the medically needy program and several services under Medicaid.** The Medically Needy Program provides Medicaid coverage to low-income families whose income is just over the eligibility limits for the AFDC or SSI programs. This program largely serves the working poor. Its elimination will cause 1,340 people to lose medical coverage. The loss of this benefit will also result in increased costs to hospitals with the resultant increase to purchasers of health insurance.

The Department also proposes to eliminate coverage of emergency dental services, chiropractic care, and state-funded hospice care from the Medicaid program.

**8. Reduction in assistance available under the General Assistance program** would authorize the Department of Human Services to reduce the level of assistance provided by municipalities to families in need of basic necessities such as housing, heat, and food. These cuts will increase homelessness, since the Department proposes that municipalities provide less than market rent.

**9. Elimination of ASPIRE services in rural areas** will cause the immediate termination of full services to 1,500 ASPIRE participants currently being served in rural areas of the state.

New limitations are also proposed on transportation, dental, and other support services for persons who will continue to be served by ASPIRE.

This proposal will eliminate access to education and training and ultimately employment for a large number of AFDC recipients, resulting in increased expenditures for AFDC, food stamps, and Medicaid.

**10. Reduction of SSI state supplement.** The Department proposes to cut \$5 from the state supplement to the 23,000 Maine aged, blind, or disabled individuals receiving SSI, which will reduce their ability to meet basic needs and increase the demand for municipal general assistance. Individual benefits would be reduced from \$407 to \$402 per month.

*(The Lobby thanks Chris Hastedt, MWL Board Member and Client Advocate for the Maine Association of Interdependent Neighborhoods, for drafting provisions related to AFDC and Medicaid programs included in this summary.)*

## Proposed Legislation

The following summarizes legislation – most not yet printed in Legislative Document (L.D.) form – to appear on our 1991 agenda. Many, as indicated, have been initiated by partner organizations of the Women's Legislative Agenda Coalition (W.L.A.C.). Unless otherwise indicated, L.D. number, co-sponsors, and Committee of Reference have not yet been assigned.

**AN ACT To Effect Cost-Savings and Ensure Worker Safety by Implementing Sexual Harassment Training and Education in Maine Workplaces.** Prime Sponsor: Rep. Ann Rand of Portland; Co-Sponsors: Rep. Wendy Ault of Monmouth, Sen. Don Esty of Westbrook.

A product of The MWL's Economic Task Force, this bill proposes to tackle the problem of sexual harassment in the workplace. Currently between 50 and 70% of all working women will experience some form of sexual

harassment on the job at some point during their working years. In addition, a 1988 survey of 160 Fortune 500 companies revealed that costs related to sexual harassment – such as absenteeism, employee turnover, low morale, reduced productivity – cost the average Fortune 500

company \$6.7 million annually. Studies as well as companies that institute training programs indicate that education does reduce the incidence – and therefore the cost – of sexual harassment. This bill: 1) Adopts as a state statutory standard the Maine Human Right Commission regulation defining sexual harassment; 2) Requires of all employers continuous posting and annual notification of employees that must include at a minimum certain facts concerning sexual harassment, including its definition, its illegality, and legal recourse for victimized employees; 3) Requires all employers with 15 or more employees to conduct on an annual basis a training program that at a minimum must include the definition of sexual harassment, penalties under the law, and the rights and responsibilities of both employers and employees in preventing and/or responding to incidents of sexual harassment in the workplace; and 4) Increases civil penal damages to \$10,000/\$25,000/\$50,000 for the first, second and third offenses,

**Legislative Report continued next page**



respectively (currently at \$5,000/\$7,000/\$10,000).

**AN ACT to Provide Additional Support for Domestic Violence Victims' Services through Marriage License Fees.** Prime Sponsor: Rep. Peter Manning of Portland.

This bill, initiated by the Family Crisis Service Coalition, proposed to add \$40 to the current \$10 cost of a marriage license to ensure additional funding for battered women's shelters. \$3 will remain with each town to cover administrative costs, and \$37 will be dedicated to the Domestic Violence Victim Services Special Revenue Fund established by the bill. By generating an estimated \$450,000, these funds will be dedicated to services for domestic violence victims, the demand for which has substantially increased in recent years. (For example, in Cumberland and Sagadahoc Counties alone, there has been a 92% increase in requests for services in FY'90.) The bill will include a fee waiver for persons with incomes below 150% of poverty, who will continue to pay the current \$10 fee.

**AN ACT to Ensure Equity in Reproductive Health Care.** Prime Sponsor: Sen. Joe Brannigan of Portland. (Other co-sponsors not yet identified.)

To be spearheaded by Maine N.O.W., this bill will ensure comprehensive coverage of reproductive health care services, including abortion, to women eligible under the state's Medicaid program.

**AN ACT to Prevent Discrimination.** Prime Sponsor: Sen. Gerard P. Conley, Jr. of Portland.

Jointly initiated by the Maine Human Rights Commission and the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance, this bill proposes to amend the Maine Human Rights Act by including "sexual orientation" as a protected class, thereby prohibiting discrimination in employment, public accommodations, and credit on the basis of sexual preference. The measure will include an exemption for religious corporations, associations, or organizations.

**AN ACT to Provide Funds for Women with Substance Abuse Problems.** Prime Sponsor: Sen. Zach Matthews of Winslow; Co-Sponsor: Sen. Beverly Bustin of Hallowell.

Committee of Reference: Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Seeks to appropriate \$50,000 in each year of the '92-'93 biennium to develop a halfway house in Winslow for women with substance abuse problems.

## OTHER LEGISLATION . . . proposed, but not yet drafted:

The Maine Coalition Against Rape will propose three changes to the Maine Sexual Assault Statute to clarify conditions under which sexual assault can occur and to expand the definition of behavior that constitutes sexual contact and/or assault, including: 1) Expanding the definition of "sexual contact" to include "breast", currently excluded, to accurately categorize touching of the breast as a sexual assault; 2) Increasing classification from a Class C to a Class B the crime of sexually assaulting an individual who is unconscious or otherwise physically incapable of resisting and has not consented to the sexual act, thereby applying to situations in which the victim is paralyzed, restrained, physically unable to communicate unwillingness, asleep, unconscious, or intoxicated; 3) Providing under the gross sexual assault statute an additional option for District Attorneys to prosecute for assault committed against the will and without the consent of the victim.

Other bills related to *battered women/family crisis services* will include an initiative presented by the Maine Homeless Coalition to establish a comprehensive definition of "homeless" (to explicitly include women who leave home due to violence) as well as a Department of Labor bill that will establish unemployment compensation eligibility for women who leave home, and therefore their jobs, because of domestic violence.

On the *anti-choice front*, the Maine Right-To-Life Committee confirmed in the press its intent to file legislation restricting a woman's right to choose abortion, including a bill to require "informed consent" (likely to include a 48-hour waiting period), husband consent or notification for married women seeking abortion, and burdensome clinic licensing requirements intended to increase cost and limit access to abortion services. As of this date, there is no formal confirmation that the RTL Committee was able to secure sponsorship of these bills.

**HELP WANTED:** Volunteer needed for data entry at MWL office in Hallowell. Please call 622-0851 if interested!



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## Annual Appeal Needs You

The eighteenth anniversary of Roe vs. Wade marks the beginning of the Maine Women's Lobby 1991 Annual Appeal. The Appeal, started in 1990, has become an integral part of the Lobby's fundraising efforts. With our decision to hire our Lobbyist on a year-round basis, the Annual Appeal plays an even more critical role in the Lobby's financial well-being.

Your contributions will enable us to continue to fight for reproductive freedom and defend against those who would take away our rights.

The Annual Appeal goal for this year is ambitious; we are hoping to raise \$10,000. We particularly appreciate your generosity during the current economic strain, but the fiscal crisis makes your contribution and MWL's ongoing efforts to preserve our rights that much more important. Please be as generous as you can when you receive our request.

*Please Note: The Annual Appeal is NOT your membership renewal.*

The Maine Women's Lobby presents:

### Breakfast of Champions

Thursday, Jan. 24, 1991 • (snow or shine)  
7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

**HOLIDAY INN BY THE BAY**  
Spring Street, Portland  
\$25, including breakfast

*Celebrating the 18th Anniversary of Roe vs Wade*

#### FEATURED SPEAKERS:

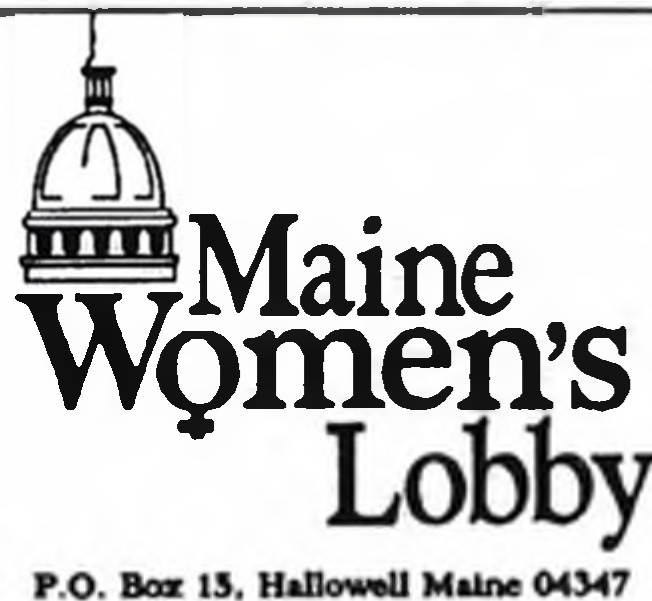
- Vendean Vafiades, Former MWL Lobbyist
- Betsy Sweet, Former MWL Lobbyist
- Joanne D'Arcangelo, Current MWL Lobbyist

#### *Where We've Been, Where We're Going*

#### A PREVIEW OF THE 115TH LEGISLATURE

- Pro-Choice Bills
- Anti-Choice Bills
  - What To Do
  - How To Organize

TICKETS - call 622-0851; 773-0321 in Portland



## Selected Legislative Achievements 1978-1990

- ✓ Guaranteed insurance coverage for Screening Mammography
- ✓ Occupational safety training for Video Display Terminal Workers
- ✓ Defeat of All Anti-Choice Legislation
  - ✓ Family Medical Leave Act
- ✓ Creation of & funding for Battered Women's Shelters
- ✓ Creation of and funding for Rape Crisis Centers
- ✓ Funding for Displaced Home Makers Programs
- ✓ Quality standards & funding for Child Care Services
- ✓ Increases in Aid to Families with Dependent Children
  - ✓ Prevention of Pregnancy-Related Disability Discrimination
- ✓ Medical Transition Funds for Women Moving from Welfare to Work
  - ✓ Increase in the Minimum Wage
- ✓ Increasing Statute of Limitations for Incest Victims
- ✓ Expansion of Medicaid for Low-Income Families
  - ✓ Creation of the Office of Child Care
  - ✓ Maine Education Equity Act
- ✓ Deleting Marital Rape and Voluntary Social Companion Exemptions from Maine Law
- ✓ Removal of Age Cap on Apprenticeship Programs
- ✓ Prevention of Discrimination Against Women and Children in Housing
- ✓ Defeat of Parental Consent Referendum and Legislation
- ✓ Funds for Family Planning and the Prevention of Teen Pregnancy
  - ✓ DES Public Information and Screening
- ✓ Creation and development of Welfare, Education, Employment & Training Program (WEET)
- ✓ Increasing Child Care Slots for Low-Income Families
- ✓ Incentives & Tax Credits for Development of Child Care
  - ✓ Creation of "Job Start" Loan Programs
  - ✓ Defeat of Censorship Referendum
  - ✓ Welfare Reform
  - ✓ Joint Custody - Divorce Law
- ✓ Support of Maine Human Rights Commission
  - ✓ Confidentiality of Maine Human Rights Act Information
  - ✓ Availability of Part-Time Law School
- ✓ Comparable Worth for State Workers and University Employees
- ✓ Funding of Community Response & Children's Programs for Battered Women's Shelters
  - ✓ Living Will Law



## I want to help improve the lives of Maine women and their families!

- ☐ Here's my \$25 for an individual membership  
☐ I prefer to join at the level below:

### REGULAR

- ☐ \$500 Life  
☐ \$250 Sustaining  
☐ \$100 Sponsoring  
☐ \$ 50 Supporting  
☐ \$ 25 Individual  
☐ \$1-24 Other

### PLEDGE

- ☐ Total annual pledge \$\_\_\_\_\_  
 I prefer to pay:  
 \$\_\_\_\_\_ monthly  
 \$\_\_\_\_\_ every other month  
 \$\_\_\_\_\_ quarterly  
 \$\_\_\_\_\_ twice per year



P.O. Box 15, Hallowell Maine 04347

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Business \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ I do not want my name given to other groups.

The **Maine Women's Lobby** is committed to representing women of all economic means. Any contribution you are able to make will entitle you to membership. Please make your check payable to: Maine Women's Lobby and return it with this card

- ☐ I am already a member. Please use the enclosed contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to advocate on behalf of Maine's women and their families.

**THANK YOU and WELCOME!**

----- ( DETACH HERE ) -----



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