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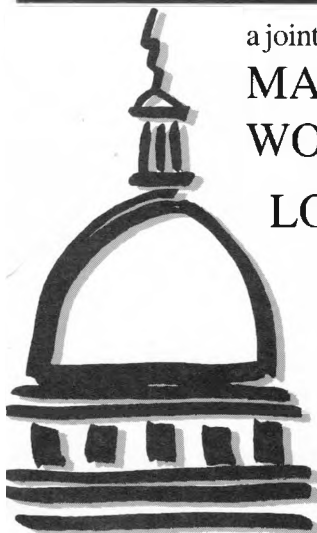
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The MAINE WOMEN'S ADVOCATE

Summer 2002

Number 34



a joint publication of the
**MAINE
WOMEN'S
LOBBY**

and the
**MAINE
WOMEN'S
POLICY
CENTER**

up to 50%. Unfortunately, particularly on the national level, the debate was mostly based on rhetoric and stereotypes and little attention was paid to the root causes of poverty: low wage jobs, lack of reliable transportation, insufficient and inadequate childcare, the need for increased education and training and access to health care. Since the underlying causes of poverty were not addressed, it will come as no surprise that the families who have left TANF are frequently still struggling in abject poverty.

In Maine, through a combination of careful research (long time Lobby/Policy Center members may remember Stephanie Seguino's compelling report, *Living on the Edge*), strong coalition building (the Women's Economic Security Project (WESP)) and solid advocacy efforts we were able to achieve a bi-partisan implementation plan that is one of the most humane and effective in the country. Although we believe that there are improvements that can be made, we also believe that Maine has crafted several innovative programs that can serve as models for the rest of the country.

TANF Reauthorization:

An Opportunity to Reduce Poverty, Not Just Caseloads

Five years ago, the Clinton Administration vowed to end, "welfare as we know it" and they succeeded. Congress is currently debating whether the changes that were made in 1996 are going to be "reformed" again and if so, to what extent, before reauthorizing the program.

Today's safety net for poor families bears only a slight resemblance to the pre-1996 welfare system. One significant difference is that prior to 1996 the program was an "entitlement" program. That meant that as long as a family met the eligibility requirement they were "entitled" to receive services. Since 1996, states have been given "block grants", a set amount of money that has not increased over the past 5 years, to provide programs to low-income families, primarily women and children. The federal government is under no obligation to pay any additional dollars to states if a recession occurs and money runs out.

Another visible sign of the changing nature of the program was renaming the program. Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) was changed to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. The underlying policy position that this name change signaled was that welfare would only provide benefits for a limited time and that the goal of the program was to move people, primarily single parent mothers, into the workforce as quickly as possible. Reducing the client caseload has become a popular benchmark for measuring the success of TANF. Based on that measure, it was a huge success. Every state, including Maine saw their caseloads drop by

One model program that Maine has developed is our Parents as

continued on pg.3

THE ALLIANCE FOR FAMILY SUCCESS

Promoting TANF Tools That Work in Maine

The Alliance for Family Success is a state-wide broad-based coalition formed to provide information and education to policy makers in order to encourage the reauthorization of the TANF, Food Stamp, and Child Care block grants in a manner that respects the dignity of families and enhances their access to supports necessary to meet their basic needs and improve their opportunities for economic security.

Founding Organizations

MAINE EQUAL JUSTICE PARTNERS 207.626.7058 info@mejp.org

MAINE WOMEN'S POLICY CENTER 207.622.0851

WomensPolicyCent@aol.com

MAINE CENTER FOR ECONOMIC POLICY 207.622.7381

mecep@mecep.org

MAINE ASSOCIATION OF INTERDEPENDENT NEIGHBORHOODS

krjguay@infi.net

Supporting Organizations

ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN'S CARE, EDUCATION, AND SUPPORT SERVICE • AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN-ME • CARING UNLIMITED • COASTAL ENTERPRISES, INC. • FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION OF MAINE • FAMILY VIOLENCE PROJECT • KENNEBEC VALLEY COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM • MAINE AFL-CIO • MAINE CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE • MAINE COALITION FOR FOOD SECURITY • MAINE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES • MAINE PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE • NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS, ME. CHAPTER • PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND • P.O.W.E.R. • PREBLE STREET RESOURCE CENTER • CONSUMER ADVOCACY PROJECT • P.R.O.P. • ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTLAND • WE WHO CARE • WOMEN UNLIMITED • WOMEN, WORK, AND COMMUNITY • YORK CO. INITIATIVE TO END HOMELESSNESS • YWCA OF GREATER PORTLAND

WOMEN'S POLICY CENTER SPONSORS SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL EVENTS

On March 14, the Women's Policy Center hosted our annual "Girls' Day at the State House," which brought 80 seventh and eighth grade girls to the Capitol for a day of educational activities. This year, the girls traveled from Fort Kent to South Berwick to attend this event. The girls learned their way around the State House, how to testify in a Public Hearing, how to develop a catchy message for an issue, and what their own legislators do in a workday. The girls also met with Governor King, Speaker Saxl, and other legislators. Here are some reflections of the girls who attended:

"I learned about the roles women have in our government and that we can do anything, and plan to! The most important thing is what we can do in the government if we work hard and believe in ourselves." - Gabrielle, St. John Plantation

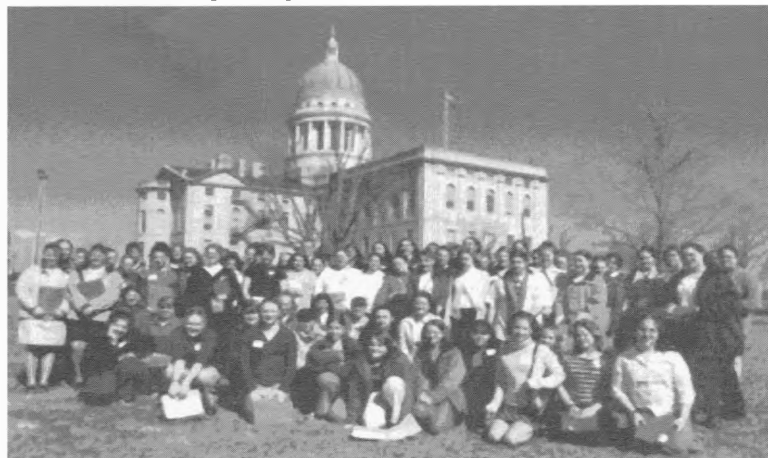
"I learned how to debate and make a decision. . . you guys taught everything we need to know." - Crystal, Arundel

"I learned about the important role women take in our government and how many more we need." - Therese, Portland

The Women's Leadership Forum, held to train Maine women on how to be successful political and community leaders, was held January 25th and 26th, and drew almost 100

women from around the state. Participants were shown around the State House, introduced to legislative leaders, learned how to testify at a Public Hearing, and how to effectively lobby their legislators. Second day activities consisted of an inspirational keynote address by Ambassador Linda Tarr-Whelan and workshops on Clean Elections, advocacy, elections 101, and public speaking.

We would like to thank everyone who generously donated the time, resources, and expertise to make these events successful and memorable for the participants.



Tomorrow's leaders today: Girls' Day at the State House 2002

INTERNS, FELLOWS, & STAFF, OH MY!

The Lobby & Policy Center Welcome Three Additions

Summer usually is the time of year when life at the Maine Women's Lobby and Maine Women's Policy Center shifts into a lower gear. This year is different. Laura, along with former intern Ariel Ricci and long-time volunteer Lillian Pease, has spent her time training new staff. The offices are bustling with activity and projects, as Andrea Breau, Susannah Sprague, and Mel Martin settle into their new positions.

Andrea



Fresh from a semester studying abroad in Senegal, West Africa, Andrea has joined us as a summer intern. Andrea is a senior Women's Studies major at Colby College. She is a passionate advocate of social activism and dreams of becoming an effective agent of social change. As a law school hopeful with plans for a joint degree in public policy, Andrea hopes to spend a post-grad year working with a women's rights advocacy or lobby group. Among her

other responsibilities at MWL, Andrea is researching and reporting on the recently completed Legislative session, writing grant proposals, and aiding in the publication of the summer newsletter. As well as interning with us this summer, Andrea

also works with the Maine People's Alliance in their progressive campaign for universal health care in the state of Maine.

Susannah

Susannah has the distinction of being selected as the Maine Women's Policy Center's inaugural Linda Smith Dyer Fellow. Susannah is researching legislation related to violence against women, and resources which are available to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. She is creating a publication which will be distributed to crisis centers, shelters, and advocates statewide. You can read Susannah's personal story, in her own words, later in this newsletter.

Mel

Mel doesn't have a great story to tell. She's a Texan and transplanted Kansan, who awoke one day last summer to find herself in Bowdoinham, Maine, with her partner, two dogs, a llama, and a U-Haul. Her life's journey has led her to tenures as an educator, coach, writer, editor, cowgirl, cartographer, and water quality specialist. Surely we've left out an occupation or two, but she won't divulge any further information. Mel began in June as our new Executive Assistant, and at least for the time being, doesn't seem to be thinking about another career move.

Mel wishes to thank Laura and the Boards of the Maine Women's Lobby and Maine Women's Policy Center for giving her the opportunity to serve the women and girls of this fine state. She has a devout passion for social justice and equality for all women, and is excited to become part of organizations that strive to effect positive and enduring change.

The Maine Women's Policy Center is very pleased to be included this year as a member of MaineShare, a workplace giving community consisting of 35 non-profit organizations. MaineShare's mission is to increase financial and human resources for and awareness of nonprofit organizations working to prevent and solve human and environmental problems in Maine.



If you would like information about how your business can become involved in MaineShare's workplace giving, and thereby continue to support the Maine Women's Policy Center, please call them at 622-0105 in Augusta, or 772-9824 in Portland.

TANF Reauthorization, continued from page 1

Scholars (PaS) program. This program allows TANF eligible parents to pursue 2 and 4 year degrees. A study * analyzing the effect of the program found that graduates have a median wage of \$11.71/hr compared to \$7.50/hr. wages of people without a postsecondary degree, who leave TANF because of work. Longitudinal studies have also demonstrated that PaS graduates find employment that provides health insurance, paid vacation and sick time. The PaS Program strongly increases the likelihood that these families do have the skills they need to lift themselves and their children out of poverty permanently.

For several months, advocates, the Maine Department of Human Services and low-income people have been building on Maine's nearly universal support for a program that is responsive to the needs of Maine families to educate policy makers as Congress debates TANF reauthorization. Last fall, along with the Maine Equal Justice Partners (MEJP), the Maine Center for Economic Policy (MECEP) and the Maine Association of Interdependent Neighborhoods (MAIN), we helped to re-establish and broaden our prior WESP coalition. The new coalition is called, The Alliance for Family Success (see sidebar for current list of coalition partners). Next the Alliance co-hosted, with the Dept. of Human Services, a 1-day briefing for the D.C. policy staff of our Congressional delegation. Our entire delegation sent key staff to participate in the day, which indicated their strong interest in working with us on this issue.

The day consisted of a series of presentations by the DHS, MEJP and the Women's Policy Center on how TANF has been implemented in Maine, staff from MECEP outlined data from their recent report (for more info see REPORTS) and there was a panel on the Parents as Scholar's program that included Judy Ryan, special assistant to the President at USM and Susannah Sprague a PaS graduate. As a result of the relationships that were established and the ideas that were generated, Rep. Allen and Rep. Baldacci voted against punitive measures that were introduced in the House. Unfortunately, in spite of our Representatives, the House ultimately voted to pass a bill that we believe will not help women and children move out of poverty.

However, there is hope for improvement in the Senate. Senator Snowe sits on the Finance Committee, which has taken the first step in crafting a Senate version of the bill. Senator Snowe has co-sponsored a set off tri-partisan principles on TANF reauthorization that has now been largely adopted by the full Senate Finance Committee. These principles are much closer in concept to our position – it allows for education to count as work, keeps work requirements at 30 hours per week and includes coverage for legal immigrants. In addition, Senator Snowe has also introduced a bill, Pathways to Success, that uses Maine's Parents as Scholars program as a guide. This bill has now been included in the Senate Finance Committee report. Although she does not sit on the Finance Committee, Senator Collins has sent the Committee a letter in support of the tri-partisan principles. In spite of being a dramatic improvement over the House proposal, the Senate version still needs work. For example, we are encouraging our Senators to include increased funding for child care. Currently, there are 30,000 eligible Maine children on a waiting list for child care; we need to address that problem. We are also concerned about "abstinence-unless-married" proposals that are circulating and are inherently offensive to women. It is unclear when the entire Senate will vote on TANF. We are urging our Senators to do everything that they can to bring the bill to the floor for a vote this year.

In 1996, you provided the support and encouragement to help Maine women and children with low incomes be treated with dignity. Your help is needed again! Please learn as much as you can about the issue, write letters to the editor in support of increased child care funding and the importance of education and also don't forget to write Thank you notes or emails to our Senators and Representatives for what they have done so far and advocating for them to go just a little bit further to help families move out of poverty.

Reports

Parents as Scholars: Education Works Welfare, Work, and Raising Children

Conversations with Twenty-One Maine Families

Publications prepared by the Maine Equal Justice Partners

Request a copy: www.mejp.org

Welfare Reform: Lessons from Maine

Ideas for Shared Prosperity

A publication prepared by the Maine Center for Economic Policy

Request a copy: info@mecep.org; www.mecep.org

Senators and Representatives	Senator Olympia J. Snowe	Senator Susan Collins
	(202) 224-5344	(202) 224-2523
	1-800-432-1559	(202) 224-2693 fax
	(202) 224-1946 fax	Senator@Collins.senate.gov
	Olympia@snowe.senate.gov	
	Representative John Baldacci	
	(202) 225-6306	
	(202) 225-2943 fax	
	baldacci@mail.house.gov	
	Representative Tom Allen	
(202) 225-6116		
(202) 225-5590 fax		
http://tomallen.house.gov/smartemail.asp		

Due to anthrax scares in Washington, D.C., postal mail still experiences lengthy delays. Please contact by phone, e-mail, or fax.

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS SERIES!

Our Breakfasts are our premier annual events and one of the most exciting forums to learn about current trends and issues on the horizon for Maine women. The program has grown from a Breakfast in one location to three events that span the state. This year, we anticipate that over 450 people will participate, including legislators, business leaders, representatives from women's organizations, and local community members. We hope you will join us for the Breakfast in your area!

This year's Breakfast of Champions promises to provide you with information relevant to today's issues. Invited panelist are gubernatorial candidates. An added highlight this year will be the unveiling of the Women's Economic Agenda.

SAVE THE DATE

- ★ **October 1:** University of Maine, Presque Isle
- ★ **October 3:** University of Maine, Orono
- ★ **October 23:** Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland

Invitations will be mailed in late August. We hope you will join us for another lively event and chance to connect with old and new friends. This year's Breakfast of Champions are events you will not want to miss!

SAVE THE DATE!

for Women's Leadership Action Coalition
fall events

The Maine Women's Policy Center is proud to coordinate WLAC, a coalition of progressive organizations working toward improving the social, economic, and political status of women, and promoting the equality of all Maine citizens. These organizations appreciate your support and attendance at their events.

Maine Women's Economic Security Agenda Coalition Community Forums

hosted by Women, Work, and Community, in collaboration with local partners in 19 communities statewide. Additional dates/locations being added.

- August 21** Presque Isle, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
FMI: Suzanne Senechal-Jandreau, 764-0050,
senechal@maine.edu
- August 21** Sanford, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
FMI: Ruth Graves, 286-1722, rgraves@maine.edu
- August 27** Lewiston, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
FMI: Gilda Nardone, 1-800-442-2092,
nardone@maine.edu
- September 12** Skowhegan, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
FMI: Lorna Doone, 474-0788,
womwork@tdstelme.net

September 18 Farmington, 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
FMI: Janet Smith, 778-2757,
janet.smith@maine.edu

September 26 Portland, 4 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
FMI: Anne Cardale or Carolyn May, 779-502,
mcwwc@gwi.net

Maine Women's Studies Consortium Conference: "Women and Politics"

October 25,26 University of Southern Maine, Portland
FMI: Eileen Eagan, 780-4284,
eagan@usm.maine.edu

Women and Money Conference

September 18 Bates College, Lewiston
September 21 Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland
October 5 Bangor

FMI: Linh Tran, Maine State Treasury, 624-7460

Registration Required. Please call or visit your nearest YWCA for brochure or registration information.

YWCA Annual Meeting

September 18 Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland
FMI: Donna Murphy, 874-1130, ext. 3218

Evening to Honor Women & Girls

hosted by Maine Women's Fund

October 7 Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland
FMI: Maine Women's Fund, 774-5513,
www.mainewomensfund.org

An evening of celebration of Maine women and girls!

Women in Public Life Conference

hosted by USM and the Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service

October 2 Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland
FMI: Jennifer Hutchins, 780-4150,
jhutchin@usm.maine.edu

Girls Will Be Girls?: Aggression, Sexuality, & Body Image

hosted by Women's Resource Center, UMO, and Maine Women's Health Campaign

October 5 Performing Arts Center, Orono
FMI: Sharon Barker, 581-1508

Biannual Awards Dinner, Family Planning Association

October 24 Eastland Park Hotel, Portland
FMI: Liz Arsenault, 772-1980

Make your reservations today!

WOMEN'S POLICY CENTER WELCOMES

LINDA SMITH DYER FELLOW,

SUSANNAH SPRAGUE

When I answered a questionnaire sent to me from the Women's Development Institute in 1995, I had no idea that it was the beginning of an adventure that would lead, eventually, to a summer job at the Maine Women's Policy Center in 2002. At the time, I lived in Washington County, Maine, where I was surviving poverty as well as I could. I had no education, I had four children and barely any way to keep a roof over their heads. I bounced between low-paid work and welfare. When I received the questionnaire, it marked the first time that anyone had asked me what my personal struggle to survive poverty really consisted of. When I realized the questionnaire was confidential, and nobody was going to show it to my Food Stamps worker, I was only too glad to give them a detailed account of what I did in order to keep my family of five together. I was distrustful at first of this organization with the mysterious name, based in Augusta. What if they were the right arm of Department of Human Services or something?

I sent back the questionnaire anyway. It gave me a way to vent my rage at the unjust rhetoric I heard in the news from Congress, who daily broadcasted their belief that women's and children's poverty is caused by the laziness and moral failure of the single female head of household. In my heart, I knew that this was not what kept us mired in poverty.

I received replies from the organization that had sent me the questionnaire. They thanked me for my participation and assured me that my voice was valuable. Well! As a woman on welfare, I had never been given that message before. I was even more excited to learn that these people were in close contact with legislators, and were telling them how low-income Maine women had responded to surveys. It was my first realization that there really is a way to affect policy-making – even for vulnerable populations that have historically been underrepresented.

Later on, my life improved. Eventually I got an education (a degree in Political Science), moved away from Washington County, and was accepted into University of Maine School of Law.

The organization that first empowered me simply by validating my experiences in poverty is now the Maine Women's Policy Center. I have had the incredible privilege of working for them this summer as the first recipient of the Linda Smith Dyer Fellowship. My work here benefited me as a low student by giving me concrete experiences in legal research and writing, but I hope it will ultimately benefit other people even more. I have been preparing for publication a brochure on various Maine statutes that were designed to aid people who are recovering from domestic violence, sexual assault, or a stalking ex-



perience. These laws have not had much use, and the brochure should increase awareness of them.

I hope people who need the information in the brochure may feel as relieved and as empowered when they read it as I did when I heard back from the 1995 questionnaire. I will feel then that my experiences with the Maine Women's Policy Center have come full circle, which is important to me, because I owe them so much.

LINDA SMITH DYER FELLOWSHIP

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN UPDATE

The Maine Women's Policy Center is deeply grateful to the generous donors who have given so freely to honor Linda Smith Dyer, one of the founding members of the Maine Women's Lobby. Our goal is to raise an endowment of \$100,000, to sustain the Fellowship. As we go to press, we humbly thank the following supporters, who have pledged \$20,000.

- *Barbara Alexander
Susan J. Bell
- *Severin & Cynthia Murray Beliveau
Elizabeth Biddle
Mary Bonauto & Jennifer Wriggins
Lisa Boehm
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- *Judith Fletcher Woodbury
- *Dead River Oil Company
- *Maine Trial Lawyers Association
- *Office of Governor Angus King

- *Founding Members, \$1000 or more

If you would like to contribute to the Linda Smith Dyer Fellowship, please contact us @ (207) 622-0851, or Melmart11@aol.com.

ABOUT THE MAINE WOMEN'S LOBBY AND MAINE WOMEN'S POLICY CENTER

The Maine Women's Lobby and the Maine Women's Policy Center work in partnership in optimizing the lives of Maine women and girls through public policy development and legislative action.

MWL (founded in 1978) is a statewide nonpartisan, nonprofit membership organization. Annual membership dues are \$35. However, MWL is committed to representing women of all economic means and any contribution you are able to make entitles you to membership. Because the Lobby is engaged in lobbying activities, contributions are not tax-deductible.

Maine Women's Policy Center (founded in 1990) is a non-lobbying organization focusing on public outreach, education, leadership development, and research. Contributions are welcome and are tax-deductible.

The **Advocate** newsletter is published jointly by MWL and Maine Women's Policy Center quarterly. MWL also produces printed and email legislative alerts during the legislative session. If you would like to receive email alerts, please email us at MWomenL@aol.com and write "subscribe to email alert" in the body of the message.

Staff: Laura Fortman, Executive Director; Mel Martin, Executive Assistant

PO BOX 15, Hallowell, ME 04347, 207-622-0851 (phone);
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MWomenL@aol.

Since 1978, the member-based Maine Women's Lobby has been a voice for women and girls of Maine. We work to protect women's rights and promote equality by securing passage of legislation and shaping the debates on issues such as economic justice, access to health care, reproductive choice, safety from abuse and harassment, and civil rights protections for all citizens.

120TH LEGISLATURE REPORT CARD

How did *your* legislator vote on issues that matter to women?

This report card provides information about bills that were priorities for the Maine Women's Lobby during the 120th legislative session. The Lobby strongly encourages our members to make an informed decision about which candidate can best represent you - and the concerns of women - at the State House. A brief explanation of the bills can be found on the last page of the report card. A "yes" vote indicates that the legislator voted in support of the Women's Lobby position. If you do not know who your legislator is, you can contact your town hall.

120th Legislature Senate Support for Maine Women's Lobby Issues

Legend:

RC = Roll Call

LD = Legislative

Document

Yes = Support for MWL

Position

	Defeat Abortion Ban LD 119 (RC # 31) Yes = MWL	Increased Unemp. Insurance LD 1258 (RC # 293) Yes = MWL	Access to Healthcare LD 1303 (RC # 158) Yes = MWL	Family Life Education LD 1603 (RC # 294) Yes = MWL
Joel Abromson	Yes	Deceased	Yes	Deceased
Richard Bennett	No	No	No	Yes
Michael Brennan	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes
Lynn Bromley	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
David Carpenter	Yes	No	No	Yes
Mary Cathcart	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Beverly Daggett	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Paul Davis	No	No	No	No
Neria Douglass	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Betheda Edmonds	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Norman Ferguson	No	No	No	Yes
Kenneth Gagnon	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jill Goldthwait	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Marge Kilkelly	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes
Richard Kneeland	No	No	No	No
Lloyd LaFountain	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kenneth Lemont	No	No	No	No
Susan Longley	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
John Martin	No	Yes	Yes	No
Michael McAievey	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Michael Michaud	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Peter Mills	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Betty Lou Mitchell	Yes	No	No	Yes
John Nutting	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes
William O'Gara	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Peggy Pendleton	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes
Anne Rand	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Margaret Rotundo	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Christine Savage	No	No	No	No
Tom Sawyer	Yes	No	Absent	No
Kevin Shorey	No	No	No	No
Mary Small	Yes	No	No	Yes
Sharon Treat	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Karl Turner	Yes	No	No	Yes
Chandler Woodcock	No	No	No	No
Edward Youngblood	Yes	No	No	No

Yes	22	19	20	26
No	11	16	13	9
Absent	2	0	2	0
Total	35	35	35	35

**Senator Joel Abromson passed away in January of 2002, and was replaced by Senator Michael Brennan.*

***Due to the unique power-sharing structure in the Senate, Michael Michaud served as President of the Senate in 2001, and Richard Bennett served as President in 2002.*

120th Legislature House Support for Maine Women's Lobby Issues

Legend:
 RC = Roll Call
 LD = Legislative Document
 Yes = Support for MWL position

	Defeat Abortion Ban LD 119 (RC # 75) Yes = MWL	Increased DV Funds LD 524 (RC # 147) Yes = MWL	Defeat Prohib. of Affirm. Act. LD 974 (RC # 122) Yes = MWL	Increased UI Access LD 1258 (RC # 619) Yes = MWL	Access to Healthcare LD 1303 (RC # 460) Yes = MWL	Increase Min. Wage LD 1591 (RC # 98) Yes = MWL	Family Life Ed. LD 1603 (RC # 582) Yes = MWL	Leave for Families of Crime Victims LD 1960 (RC # 492) Yes = MWL	DV Victim Protection LD 2019 (RC # 502) Yes = MWL	Paid Fam/Med Leave LD 2058 (RC # 514) Yes = MWL
Mary Black Andrews	No	Yes	Yes	No	Absent	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
James Annis	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Walter Ash	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes
Martha Bagley	Absent	Yes	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Christina Baker	Absent	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Irvin Belanger	No	Yes	No	No	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Donald Berry	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Randall Berry	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes
Patricia Blanchette	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lawrence Bliss	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gerald Bouffard	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
David Bowles	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Joseph Brannigan	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Joseph Brooks	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Joseph Bruno	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Bruce Bryant	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
John Buck	No	Absent	Absent	No	Absent	Absent	No	Yes	Yes	No
Thomas Bull	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Randall Bumps	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent
George Bunker	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Marilyn Canavan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Roderick Carr	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Peter Chase	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Howard Chick	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nancy Chizmar	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Joseph Clark	No	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Harold Clough	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Ronald Collins	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Patrick Colwell	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
William Cote	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Scott Cowger	Yes	Absent	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Richard Crabtree	Yes	Yes	No	No	Absent	Absent	Absent	Yes	Yes	No
Philip Cressey	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No
Glenn Cummings	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Robert Daigle	Yes	Yes	Absent	No	Absent	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Gerald Davis	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mabel Desmond	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent

Legend:
RC = Roll Call
LD = Legislative Document
Yes = Support for MWL position

[illegible]

120th Legislature House Support for Maine Women's Lobby Issues

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	Defeat Abortion Ban LD 119 (RC # 75) Yes = MWL	Increased DV Funds LD 524 (RC # 147) Yes = MWL	Defeat Prohib. of Affirm. Act. LD 974 (RC # 122) Yes = MWL	Increased UI Access LD 1258 (RC # 619) Yes = MWL	Access to Healthcare LD 1303 (RC # 460) Yes = MWL	Raising Min. Wage LD 1591 (RC # 98) Yes = MWL	Family Life Ed. LD 1603 (RC # 582) Yes = MWL	Leave for Families of Crime Victims LD 1960 (RC # 492) Yes = MWL	DV Victim Protection LD 2019 (RC # 502) Yes = MWL	Paid Fam/Med Leave LD 2058 (RC # 514) Yes = MWL
Jay MacDougall	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
David Madore	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Absent
Richard Mailhot	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Boyd Marley	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lisa Marrache	Absent	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Absent	Absent	Yes	Absent	Absent
Zachary Matthews	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes
Arthur Mayo	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
John McDonough	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Monica McGlocklin	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bernard McGowan	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes
Linda Rogers McKee	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Terrence McKenney	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Janet McLaughlin	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Deborah McNeil	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Stavros Mendros	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Absent	Yes	Yes
John Michael	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Marc Michaud	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Charles Mitchell	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
John Morrison	No	Yes	No	No	Absent	Absent	No	Yes	Yes	Absent
Eleanor Murphy	Absent	Yes	Yes	No	Absent	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	No
Thomas Murphy	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Christopher Muse	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kevin Muse	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Absent	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Richard Nass	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
William Norbert	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jacqueline Norton	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Robert Nutting	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Julie Ann O'Brien	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	No
Lillian LaFontaine O'Brien	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes
Christopher O'Neil	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rosaire Paradis	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
John Patrick	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Judith Peavey	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Royce Perkins	No	Yes	No	No	No	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Joseph Perry	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes
Raymond Pineau	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
William Pinkham	No	Yes	No	No	Absent	Absent	Yes	Yes	Absent	No
Edward Povich	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Absent	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes
Michael Quint	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Shirley Richard	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent

Legend:
RC = Roll Call
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The following is an explanation of bills covered in the report card:

LD 119 – An Act to Ban Partial Birth Abortion in the 3rd Trimester Except to Save the Life of the Mother: Defeated. “Partial birth abortion” is a political term, not a medical term; this bill would have prohibited all late term abortions, including those necessary to save the life or health of a woman. Pro-choice legislators voted to support the Majority Ought Not to Pass position.

LD 524 – An Act to Fund Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Intervention and Prevention: Passed. The first significant funding increase for domestic violence and sexual assault prevention and intervention programs since 1986, this bill allocates \$1.2 million in the first year and \$3 million in the second.

LD 974 – An Act to Create the Civil Rights in Public Employment, Education, and Contracting Act: Defeated. This bill would have prohibited the State of Maine from participating in affirmative action plans.

LD 1258 – An Act to Make the Unemployment Insurance Program More Responsive to the Needs of Today’s Workplace: Vetoed. This bill would have made unemployment insurance accessible to Mainers who work part-time. Current law requires unemployed workers to seek full-time employment in order to qualify.

LD 1303 – An Act to Increase Access to Healthcare: Passed. This bill expands Medicaid coverage to nearly 16,000 adults with incomes below the poverty level by October 2002. It combines the Cub Care and Medicaid programs and renames it “Maine Care” to encourage more people to apply.

LD 1591 – An Act to Raise Minimum Wage the Earned Income Credit: Passed. This bill raised the minimum wage to \$5.75 per hour in January 2002, and will raise it again in January 2003 to \$6.25 per hour.

LD 1603 – An Act to Expand Family Life Education in Maine Schools: Passed. This bill directs the Commissioner of Education to provide a comprehensive, age-appropriate “family life education” regarding human development and sexuality for students from kindergarten to high school.

LD 1960 – An Act to Promote Safety of Families through the Workplace: Passed. This bill requires an employer to grant unpaid, job protected leave to an employee who has been a victim of violence, assault, or stalking, or has a child, parent, or spouse who has been a victim of violence.

LD 2019 – An Act to Promote Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking: Passed. This bill ensures address confidentiality to victims of domestic violence, stalking, or sexual assault by authorizing the use of mailing addresses designated by the Secretary of State.

LD 2058 – Resolve, to Continue the Study of the Benefits and Costs for Increasing Access to Family and Medical Leave for Maine Families: Passed. This bill is a resolve to study the feasibility of providing Maine workers with *paid* family leave.

Information on where candidates stand on other issues is available from the following organizations: Civil Rights- Maine Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance (800) 55-MLGPA; Work and Family Issues- Maine AFL-CIO (207) 622-3151; Environmental Issues- Maine League of Conservation Voters (207) 373-1200.

Legislative Wrap-up

As you know, every session there are hundreds of bills that impact women; however, we are unable to include information on all of them. Below is a list of some of the bills that were priorities for the Maine Women's Lobby this past legislative session (2002) and how they fared. If you have questions about any other legislation, please call the office (622-0851) and we'd be happy to provide you with additional information. Thanks for staying informed and active throughout this session.

Civil Rights and Anti-Discrimination

L.D. 2157: An Act Regarding the Requirements for Documenting Pretest and Post-test Counseling for HIV Tests. Sponsor: Rep. Madore (R-Augusta) Judiciary Committee. This bill changes the way a person documents the counseling provided to another person before or after an HIV test is administered. Current law requires a written memorandum that summarizes the contents of the discussion to be given to the person tested. This bill requires that an entry in the person's medical record summarizing the discussion be made. **MWL Position: Support. Status: 4/9 Governor signed. Public Law 02-Ch.647.**

Economic Security

L.D. 2058: Resolve, to Continue the Study of the Benefits and Costs for Increasing Access to Family and Medical Leave for Maine Families. Sponsor: Original resolve- Rep. Norbert (D-Portland) Labor Committee. This resolve is the recommendation of the Committee to Study the Benefits and Costs for Increasing Access to Family and Medical Leave for Maine Families, which was created in the first legislative session. The Committee, which explores the feasibility of providing workers with paid family leave, recommended that it be allowed to continue its work during another interim, since the lack of sufficient data prevented members from reaching a conclusion in 2001. MWL took the lead (again) in the lobby effort and is represented on the Committee. **MWL Position: Support. Status: 4/11 Governor signed. Resolve-Ch.115.**

L.D. 1258: An Act to Make the Unemployment Insurance Program More Responsive to the Needs of Today's Workforce. Sponsor: Rep. Matthews (D-Winslow) Labor Committee. This bill, which was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 120th Legislature, would have made unemployment insurance accessible to Mainers who work part-time. Currently, if you work part-time and lose your job and meet all other UI eligibility requirements, you must seek full-time employment to qualify for UI benefits. This bill would have prevented disqualification for unemployment benefits of persons who lose their jobs and are seeking part-time employment. **MWL Position: Support. Status: Governor vetoed.**

L.D. 2218: An Act to Improve the Responsiveness of the Unemployment Insurance Program. Sponsor: Rep. Bunker (D-Kossuth Township) Labor Committee. This bill, similar to the one listed above, would have made unemployment insurance accessible to Mainers who work part-time. However, due to the Governor's apprehensions that federal funding for the program would eventually be exhausted, this bill placed a provisional time period of three years, rather than an indefinite period, to implement the part-time worker standard. **MWL Position: Support. Status: Governor vetoed.**

L.D. 1960: An Act to Promote Safety of Families through the Workplace. Sponsor: Speaker Saxl (D-Portland) Labor Committee. This bill is an expansion of legislation spearheaded by MWL in 1999 guaranteeing job protected leave to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. It requires an employer to grant an employee the *same* protection if a child, parent, or spouse of that employee is a victim of violence, assault, sexual assault, stalking, or any other act that would support an order for protection. **MWL Position: Support. Status: 4/11 Governor signed. Public Law 02-Ch.685.**

L.D. 1624: An Act Concerning the Payment of Child Support. Sponsor: Rep. Hawes (D-Standish) Health and Human Services Committee. This bill, carried over from the first session, provides an additional child support collection tool for DHS by requiring employers to report the name, address, and s.s. number of persons hired on a contract basis. It also dedicates excess funds collected to go toward TANF and the Parents as Scholars Program benefits until Maine's maximum level for a family of 3 reaches the New England average. **MWL Position: Support. Status: Killed in committee.**

Healthcare and Reproductive Rights

L.D. 1784: An Act to Address the Health Coverage Crisis for Maine's Small Businesses and Self-employed Persons. Sponsor: Speaker Saxl (D-Portland) Banking and Insurance Committee. This bill establishes the Maine Small Business Health Coverage Plan which provides comprehensive health care coverage at affordable prices to small employers, including self-employed individuals, their employees, and dependents on a voluntary basis. **MWL Position: Support. Status: 4/11 Governor signed. Public Law 02-Ch.677.**

L.D. 2013: An Act to Promote the Health of Maine Women and Girls. Sponsor: Rep. Colwell (D-Gardiner) Health and Human Services Committee. This bill would have established the Women's Health Initiative with the purpose to improve the health status of and access to health services for women and girls by providing a comprehensive focus on women's health, including preventing disease, improving health and quality of life and promoting recovery. **MWL Position: Support. Status: Killed.**

L.D. 1603: An Act to Expand Family Life Education in Maine Schools. Sponsor: Rep. Fuller (D-Manchester) Health and Human Services Committee. This bill directs the Commissioner of Education to take action to enhance family life education regarding human development and sexuality for students in kindergarten to high school. It emphasizes education on family planning and STD's that is medically accurate and age-appropriate; that respects community values and encourages parental communication; that develops skills in communication, decision making, and conflict resolution; that contributes to healthy relationships; that promotes responsible sexual behavior with an emphasis on abstinence; that addresses the use of contraception; that promotes individual responsibility and involvement regarding sexuality; and that teaches skills for responsible decision making regarding sexuality. **MWL Position: Support. Status: 4/10 Governor signed. Public Law 02-Ch.654.**

L.D. 1670: An Act Regarding Child Abandonment. Sponsor: Sen. Kilkelly (D-Wiscasset) Judiciary Committee. This bill, carried over from the first legislative session, is similar to "safe surrender" legislation that is being proposed in numerous states. The bill creates an affirmative defense (not immunity) to the crime of abandonment of a child 31 days or younger when delivered safely to a law enforcement officer, a staff member at a medical emergency room, a medical services provider, or a hospital staff member. It ensures the confidentiality of any information provided by the person delivering the child who does not express an intent to return for the child. **MWL Position: Neither for nor against. Status: 3/22 Governor signed. Public Law 02-Ch.543.**

Freedom from Violence

L.D. 2019: An Act to Protect Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking. Sponsor: Speaker Saxl (D-Portland) Judiciary Committee. This bill establishes the Address Confidentiality Program which provides state and local agencies with the ability to respond to requests for public records without disclosing the location of a victim of domestic violence, stalking, or sexual assault. It authorizes the use of mailing addresses designated by the Secretary of State for such victims. **MWL Position: Support. Status: 3/19 Governor signed. Public Law 02-Ch.539.**

L.D. 2163: An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission to Study Domestic Violence. Sponsor: Criminal Justice Committee. This bill implements recommendations of the Commission to Study Domestic Violence and does the following: it sets limitations on a bail commissioner's authority by outlining specific bail standards for the defendant in cases involving domestic violence; it sets minimum policy standards for law enforcement procedures in dealing with domestic violence cases; it enacts language that authorizes district attorneys to appoint law enforcement officers as domestic violence investigators; and it requires the Department of Corrections to report annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice matters regarding the work or batterers intervention programs. **MWL Position: Support. Status: 4/11 Governor signed. Public Law 02-Ch.686.**