

### KIM SPORT, Public Policy Chair

The United Way of Southeast Louisiana (UWSELA) **2019 Public Policy Legislative Agenda, “United for a Safe & Prosperous Community,”** continues our advocacy fighting for the health, education, and financial stability of every person. This agenda is aligned with United Way’s [Blueprint for Prosperity](#), our plan to eradicate poverty in Southeast Louisiana, and lifts up [ALICE](#) – households who are living paycheck to paycheck, one financial emergency from falling into poverty.

UWSELA Public Policy works closely with state legislators, the governor’s staff, and collaborative partners to ensure successful passage of the following bills which help create a better, stronger community for all.

## FINANCIAL STABILITY

**[SB 155](#) authored by Senator Troy Carter** establishes a state minimum hourly wage of nine dollars, effective July 1, 2020, and authorizes the legislature to increase the minimum wage by law.

**[SB 136](#) authored by Senator JP Morrell** promotes pay transparency by prohibiting employers from taking actions against employees for inquiring about, discussing, or disclosing their wages or those of other employees.

**[HB 422](#) authored by Representative Royce Duplessis** authorizes parishes and municipalities to provide relative to the local economy.

**[SB 186](#) authored by Senator JP Morrell** establishes a statewide paid family and medical leave program.

## EDUCATION

As part of the [Ready LA Coalition](#), UWSELA is advocating for increased investment in quality early care and education in general and through fantasy sports betting and general sports betting revenues. Child care is the most expensive category in the ALICE Report’s household survival budget for Louisiana, yet less than 15% of families with children under age four can access public ECE funding. Improving access to high-quality early care and education is crucial for the success of our families, our economy, and our entire state.

**SB 153 authored by Senator Danny Martiny** provides relative to sports wagering and crediting proceeds to the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund.

**SB 196 authored by Senator JP Morrell** authorizes local government to charge a fee on certain gaming winnings to fund local early childhood programs.

**HB 495 authored by Representative Neil Abramson** authorizes an 8% state tax on net gaming proceeds from fantasy sports contests and dedicates the avails of the tax to the state general fund and the La. Early Childhood Education Fund.

**HB 587 authored by Representative Joseph Marino** levies a 15% state tax on the net proceeds of sports wagering and dedicates 1% or \$500,000, whichever is greater, to the Compulsive and Problem Gaming Fund and the remainder of the proceeds to the Early Childhood Education Fund and parish governing authorities. Authorizes certain permits and imposes fees for entities involved in the sports wagering gaming industry.

**HB 600 authored by Representative Kirk Talbot** authorizes a 10% state tax on net gaming proceeds from fantasy sports contests and dedicates the avails of the tax to the La. Early Childhood Education Fund.

## HEALTH

**HB 345 authored by Representative Julie Stokes** provides for coverage for breast and ovarian cancer susceptibility screening. This legislation requires insurance to cover the BRCA test - an indicator for breast cancer, before women test positive for cancer so they can know their risks before it is too late.

**HB 347 authored by Representative Julie Stokes** provides for the coverage of diagnostic imaging at the same level of coverage as screening mammograms. This legislation requires insurance to fully cover the diagnostic tests for breast cancer in addition to the initial screens.

**HB 370 authored by Representative Julie Stokes** provides relative to prescription drug benefits for persons with stage-four advanced, metastatic cancer. This legislation stops the insurance industry from requiring patients to use the cheapest treatment first before moving onto more expensive, and possibly more effective, treatments that have been ordered by their doctor.

**SB 4 authored by Senator JP Morrell** is a constitutional amendment to exempt diapers and feminine hygiene products from state sales and use tax.

**SB 5 authored by Senator JP Morrell** exempts diapers and feminine hygiene products from sales and use tax.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**SB 71 authored by Senator Troy Carter** provides relative to interpreters for non-English-speaking persons in civil protective order cases. (gov sig).

**SB 146 authored by Senator JP Morrell** prohibits the incarceration of victims of domestic violence and sex offenses who refuse to testify against their abusers. (gov sig)

**HB 279 authored by Representative Joseph Marino** provides relative to the transfer of firearms of persons who are prohibited from possessing a firearm in domestic abuse cases.

## COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING

**HB 180 authored by Representative Larry Bagley** creates the crime of interfering with emergency communication.

**HB 389 authored by Representative Julie Stokes** provides for naming the supreme court building after Pascal F. Calogero, Jr.

**HB 489 authored by Representative Mary DuBuisson** expands the definition of what is not hearsay to include statements made by the victim of a sexually-oriented criminal offense to a healthcare provider during a forensic medical examination.

**HB 544 authored by Representative Taylor F. Barras and Senator John Alario** provides with respect to the land-based casino operating contract. See Fiscal Note [here](#).

**SR 31 authored by Senator JP Morrell** commends Mary Claire Landry upon receipt of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Alliance for HOPE International and has been sent to the Secretary of State.