



United Way of
Southeast Louisiana

2018 PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

UNITED FOR A SAFE & PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY

KIM SPORT, Public Policy Chairman

United Way of Southeast Louisiana's (UWSELA) 2018 Public Policy Legislative Agenda "**United for a Safe & Prosperous Community**" will continue as in the past, our advocacy for all issues which complement our **Blueprint for Prosperity's** mission and goals to **ALICE** – **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed. UWSELA will continue to work closely with individuals, organizations and coalitions who bring years of their own passion and expertise to the table.

2018 was a busy policy year for the Louisiana State Legislature. In addition to the Regular Session, Governor John Bel Edwards called three Special Sessions to address state finances. UWSELA Public Policy Chair Kim Sport, Executive Vice President & COO Charmaine Caccioppi and President & CEO Michael Williamson participated in the Governor's "A Good Deal for Louisiana Rally" consisting of media interviews and speaking at the Capitol on the need for bipartisanship in solving our state's financial challenges, highlighting **ALICE**.

We are grateful to Louisiana Representatives and Senators who have been our **2018 Legislative Champions** for education, financial stability, health and community strengthening issues during this session including: Representatives Beryl Amedee, Larry Bagley, Joseph Bouie, Thomas Carmody, Gary Carter, Steve Carter, Stephanie Hilferty, Katrina Jackson, Patrick Jefferson, Edmond Jordan, Sherman Mack, Joseph Marino, Patricia Smith, Julie Stokes, Kirk Talbot, Polly Thomas, Malinda White, and Senators Regina Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Troy Carter, Ryan Gatti, Ronnie Johns, Danny Martiny, JP Morrell, and Rick Ward.

Thank you to UWSELA Board of Trustees, Public Policy Committee, Women United, staff, and our volunteers and collaborative partners who advocated and gave public testimony during the sessions.

Information on all legislative bills can be found on the Louisiana State Legislature's website at: <https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillSearch.aspx?sid=last>

EDUCATION

UWSELA Women United and United Ways across Louisiana joined forces with the Ready Louisiana Coalition for **Early Education Day at the Capitol** to support investment in Louisiana's young children. Ready Louisiana is a coalition of business, educational, advocacy, parent and community organizations as well as individual businesses seeking adequate funding for quality, affordable Early Child Care and Education in Louisiana.

HCR 16 authored by Rep. Walt Leger - SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Recognizes March 26, 2018, as United Way Women United Day at the state capitol and commends Women United for its dedication to the advancement of early childhood care and education.



ACT 639 (HB 676) authored by Rep. Stephanie Hilferty - EARLY CHILDHOOD: Creates the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission and pilot programs for community early childhood care and education networks.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

UWSELA worked in close partnership with all United Ways across Louisiana to give an identity and voice to people who work hard, yet struggle to make ends meet—people we call and refer to as **ALICE**, **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed. **ALICE** lives in each of our 64 parishes statewide and don't earn enough to make ends meet.



Governor John Bel Edwards invited Charmaine Caccioppi to participate in the LPB **"Louisiana: The State We're In"** for a Special Session Discussion on the state of the budget and how it would impact the communities UWSELA serves, the EITC and why state lawmakers should work together to solve the fiscal cliff. Click here to view the full LPB recording: <https://video.lpb.org/video/louisiana-the-state-were-in-060118-rqtl7g/>

ACT 6 (HB 18) authored by Rep. Katrina Jackson - Provides relative to the individual income tax credit for taxes paid to other states. Report adopts Senate amendments to: increase the amount of the earned income tax credit from 3.5% to 5% of the federal earned income tax credit amount.

SB 365 authored by Sen. Rick Ward was successful defeated. This bill proposed the creation of the Louisiana Credit Access Loan Act with interest rates in excess of 160%, and would have included an expansion of predatory lending.

HEALTH

After successfully battling breast cancer, Rep. Julie Stokes wanted to make the fight a little easier for other Louisianians and and was successful in the passage of several health cancer bills that require insurers to cover breast cancer screenings after a woman has a bilateral mastectomy and for health coverage plans to cover digital breast tomosynthesis, a procedure that creates a 3D image of a breast.

UWSELA's partner agency, CAGNO, was selected by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners(LSBME) to re-write the new Louisiana Breast Cancer Treatment Alternatives Brochure which must be given to every women diagnosed with breast cancer before any treatment can begin and before any consent is obtained to perform any type of breast cancer surgery.



ACT 461 (HB 690) authored by Rep. Julie Stokes - INSURANCE/HEALTH: Provides for coverage for subsequent preventive tests for certain individuals diagnosed with breast cancer.

ACT 494 (HB 460) authored by Rep. Julie Stokes - INSURANCE/HEALTH: Provides that mammography examinations shall be conducted through digital tomosynthesis.

ACT 497 (HB 818) authored by Rep. Stephanie Hilferty - PUBLIC HEALTH: Creates the Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies Advisory Council.

ACT 580 (SB 556) authored by Sen. Troy Carter - HEALTHCARE: Provides relative to information and access to breast reconstructive surgery.

ACT 593 (HB 753 - formerly HB 584) authored by Rep. Julie Stokes - LICENSING: Provides for licensure of genetic counselors.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

UWSELA's Public Policy Committee has been leading the Domestic Violence reform effort for five years. In 2014 UWSELA formed the "United Against Domestic Violence Coalition" with partners: the New Orleans Family Justice Center and the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Many of the new laws were years in the making and are some of the strongest laws in the nation to protect victims of domestic and family violence. We are hopeful that these new laws will decrease Louisiana's homicide rates and protect victims, especially children, from the devastating effects of domestic violence. During 2017-18, the United Against Domestic Violence Coalition provided over 10 "Five Awake" screenings and panel discussions throughout Louisiana and the U.S.



Summary of New 2018 Domestic Violence Laws:

- POs issued after a stalking conviction must contain a firearm prohibition.
- POs issued to prohibit communication with a Domestic Violence victim during prosecution of a certain felonies must contain a firearm prohibition.
- Firearm transfer bill requires disclosure of firearms possessed by persons subject to Domestic Violence protective orders and following Domestic Violence convictions and further requires court orders to transfer firearms to sheriffs.
- A firearm dealer must inform sheriffs of NICS background check failures.
- A fraudulent attempt to purchase a firearm carries a penalty of up to 20 years imprisonment.
- Unlawful possession of a firearm following a Domestic Violence conviction has an increased penalty of 1-20 years (formerly up to 5 years).
- It is now a crime to illegally transfer a firearm to a prohibited possessor – imprisonment up to 1 year.



Kim Sport served as a panelist for Nola4Women's three-part series, called "Hear Our Voices" - Mapping Change in our Community, which highlighted the strides she and United Way made in policy issues including domestic violence, health and what remains to be accomplished.

ACT 228 (SB 60) *authored by Sen. Danny Martiny* - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: Provides relative to civil actions for domestic abuse.

ACT 263 (HB 79) *authored by Rep. Sherman Mack* - CRIME: Creates the crime of abuse of persons with infirmities through electronic means and provides for criminal penalties and exceptions.

ACT 264 (HB 100) *authored by Rep. Malinda White* - DOMESTIC ABUSE: Provides with respect to attorney fees and costs in domestic abuse cases.

ACT 265 (HB 125) *authored by Rep. Patrick Jefferson* - DIVORCE: Provides relative to divorce and spousal support.

ACT 282 (HB 776) *authored by Rep. Patricia Smith* - CRIME: Prohibits the possession of firearms in certain cases involving stalking.

ACT 293 (HB 896) *authored by Rep. Patricia Smith* - DOMESTIC ABUSE: Provides relative to battery of a dating partner, domestic abuse, and uniform abuse prevention orders.

ACT 309 (HB 307) *authored by Rep. Polly Thomas* - CRIMINAL/VICTIMS: Provides for the rights of certain crime victims.

ACT 367 (SB 231) *authored by Sen JP Morrell* - WEAPONS: Provides relative to firearm relinquishment for the violation of a protective order.

ACT 383 (SB 366) *authored by Sen. Rick Ward* - CHILDREN: Provides relative to visitation rights of grandparents and siblings.



ACT 412 (SB 291) *authored by Sen. Regina Barrow* - FAMILY LAW: Provides relative to family violence and domestic abuse as factors to consider in determining visitation and custody.

ACT 630 (HB 612) *authored by Rep. Julie Stokes* - CRIME: Provides relative to the observation or filming of a person and the disclosure of certain images of a person.

ACT 679 (HB 207) *authored by Rep. Larry Bagley* - DOMESTIC ABUSE: Requires those who serve temporary protective orders or protective orders to transmit a service return to the Louisiana Protective Order Registry.

SEXUAL ASSAULT

ACT 458 (HB 488) *authored by Rep. Beryl Amedee* - CHILDREN/ABUSE: Provides to the mandatory reporting of certain crimes of sexual abuse of a minor.

COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING

UWSELA worked in strong collaborative partnership with advocates on incredibly important issues to assist our most vulnerable citizens ensuring they have a chance of success at achieving economic security for themselves and their families.

- Louisiana Institute for Children in Families
- Louisiana Center for Children Rights
- The Pelican Institute
- LA-PRI
- Human Trafficking
- Medicaid Work Requirements
- Louisiana Justice Reinvestment Implementation
- Louisiana Foster – Louisiana’s Children – Our Children

• JUSTICE REINVESTMENT

ACT 355 (SB107) *authored by Sen. JP Morrell* - CHILDREN’S CODE: Provides relative to the duration of a disposition on a felony-grade adjudication.

ACT 453 (HB 187) *authored by Rep. Joseph Marino* - JUVENILES: Provides relative to the use of restraints on juveniles during court proceedings.

ACT 467 (SB 102) *authored by Sen. JP Morrell* - CHILDREN’S CODE: Provides relative to disposition of children after adjudication of certain felony-grade delinquents acts.

ACT 654 (SB 248) *authored by Sen. Ronnie Johns* - CHILDREN’S CODE: Revises definition of “children” in the Children’s Code.

• HUMAN TRAFFICKING

ACT 703 (HB 830) *authored by Rep. Julie Stokes* - HUMAN TRAFFICKING: Requires age and work status verification prior to work in a sexually oriented business to prevent human trafficking.

• FOSTER CARE

ACT 237 (SB 211) *authored by Sen. Ryan Gatti* - CHILDREN: Provides relative to parental drug testing before allowing a foster child to return to the home.

ACT 649 (SB 129) *authored by Sen. Ryan Gatti* - FAMILY LAW: Provides relative to foster care children in high school.

SCR 10 *authored by Sen. Regina Ashford Barrow* - CHILDREN: Requests the Department of Children and Family Services to study extending the age of foster care to age twenty-one.

• ELDER ABUSE

ACT 596 (HB 281) *authored by Rep. Kirk Talbot* - NURSING HOMES: Authorizes nursing home residents or their qualified surrogates to have monitoring devices installed in those residents’ rooms.

IN THE NEWS...

A simple request to lawmakers: 'Do what is right for Louisiana families' | Letter – June 8, 2018

https://www.nola.com/opinions/index.ssf/2018/06/louisiana_poverty.html

Letters: Bill Would Help Poor Families – May 30, 2018

http://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/opinion/letters/article_215b7a3e-644a-11e8-9308-0fbf2ef3b235.html

Abusers finally will have to give up their guns | Editorial – May 18, 2018

http://www.nola.com/opinions/index.ssf/2018/05/gun_transfer_1.html

Stephanie Grace: Helena Moreno's fight for domestic violence legislation a master class in effective advocacy – May 3, 2018

http://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/opinion/stephanie_grace/article_80b9d174-4ef1-11e8-966b-133f2f5b59c8.html

Senate passes bill that would help keep guns from domestic abusers named in restraining orders – April 4, 2018

<http://www.fox8live.com/story/37876115/senate-passes-bill-that-would-help-keep-guns-from-domestic-abusers-named-in-restraining-orders>

Louisiana Shouldn't Let Abusers Get Away With Keeping Guns | Editorial – January 31, 2018

http://www.nola.com/opinions/index.ssf/2018/01/gun_relinquishment.html

Words Could Take Guns From Louisiana's Domestic Violence Offenders – January 30, 2018

http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2018/01/words_could_take_guns_from_lou.html

St. Bernard Sheriff speaks at United Way Domestic Violence Awareness panel discussion - October 2017

<http://sbso.org/st-bernard-sheriff-speaks-at-united-way-domestic-violence-awareness-panel-discussion/>