



## UWSELA PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE 2020 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA “UNITED FOR A SAFE & PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY”

**KIM SPORT, Public Policy Chair**

### 2020 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

United Way of Southeast Louisiana’s (UWSELA) Blueprint for Prosperity advances our mission to eradicate poverty and assist **ALICE** (**A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed). **ALICE** represents the growing number of hardworking individuals and families across Louisiana who are working but unable to afford the basic household necessities, including housing, child care, health care, food, and transportation.

UWSELA Public Policy Committee’s 2020 Legislative topics serve to advance our Blueprint for Prosperity and moving forward, we will continue, as in the past, our advocacy for all issues which complement the mission and goals of UWSELA to **ALICE**. We will continue to work closely with individuals, organizations and coalitions who bring years of their own passion and expertise to the table.

The 2020 Regular Legislative Session convened March 9 and was suspended March 16, only five legislative days in, to help stem the community spread of the coronavirus. The Louisiana Legislature gavelled back into session on May 4 with final adjournment June 1, at which time an Extraordinary Session will be called with final adjournment no later than 6 p.m. June 30. UWSELA Public Policy Committee and Board of Trustees will be informed of developments in legislation.

### EDUCATION

We must provide opportunities for ALL families to have access to the quality child care and after school programs needed to enrich their children while parents remain a productive part of Louisiana’s workforce.

We must provide ALL of our children with the education and services they need for a bright and fulfilling future.

- **Increase Investment in Early Childhood Education (ECE)**
- **Ensure Adequate and Equitable Funding for K-12 Schools and Higher Education**

**HB 251 authored by Rep. Stephanie Hilferty**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=HB251&sbi=y>

**EARLY CHILDHOOD:** Recreates the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission

**HB 409 authored by Rep. Jeremy LaCombe**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=HB409&sbi=y>

**SCHOOLS/BOARDS:** Provides with respect to purchasing by school boards

**HB 474 authored by Rep. Aimee Adatto Freeman**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=HB474&sbi=y>

**TEACHERS:** Provides relative to the training requirements of certain mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect.

**HB 559 authored by Rep. Royce Duplessis**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=HB559&sbi=y>

**EDUCATION:** Provides with respect to early childhood literacy

**SB 128 authored by Sen. Regina Ashford Barrow**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=SB128&sbi=y>

**SCHOOLS:** Requires certain assessments of a student prior to suspension from school. (gov sig)

**SB 130 authored by Sen. Cameron Henry**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=SB130&sbi=y>

**GAMING:** Provides for a proposition election to determine whether sports wagering activities and operations will be permitted in a parish. (6/10/20)

**SB 313 authored by Sen. Karen Carter Peterson**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=SB313&sbi=y>

**LOCAL AGENCIES:** Provides relative to exemptions related to the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board. (gov sig)

**SB 324 authored by Sen. Regina Ashford Barrow**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=SB324&sbi=y>

**BESE:** Creates the "Educator Pipeline to Success Program". (gov sig)

## FINANCIAL STABILITY

We must continue to invest state funds in the evidenced-based programs that net the largest return of federal dollars so that the state can keep more of the dollars paid by Louisiana citizens.

We must invest in Louisiana's working families to ensure financial stability so that no Louisiana family is forced to be **ALICE** (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed).

- **Support an Increase in the Minimum Wage**
- **Focus on Economic Development Strategies**
- **Family Economic Stability**
- **Earned Income Tax Credit (Support continued funding for EITC)**
- **Predatory Lending** (*Monitor legislation that may hinder positions we have taken in the past that will further negatively impact our ALICE community*)

**HB 133 authored by Rep. Mike Johnson**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=HB133&sbi=y>

**FAMILY LAW:** Provides relative to child and spousal support payments when a defendant has been found in contempt for disobeying an order for payment

**HB 447 authored by Rep. Barbara Carpenter**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=HB447&sbi=y>

**EMPLOYMENT/DISCRIMINATION:** Provides relative to employment practices related to wage history, wage disclosure, and retaliation

**SB 38 authored by Sen. Troy Carter**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=SB38&sbi=y>

**EMPLOYMENT:** Provides with respect to wage secrecy and pay discrimination. (8/1/20)

**SB 136 authored by Sen. Troy Carter**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=SB136&sbi=y>

**EMPLOYMENT:** Provides for an increase in state minimum wage. (gov sig)

**SB 287 authored by Sen. Regina Ashford Barrow**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=SB287&sbi=y>

**EMPLOYMENT:** Provides for reasonable accommodations for employees temporarily disabled due to pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions in the workplace. (8/1/20)

**SB 317 authored by Sen. Troy Carter**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=SB317&sbi=y>

**EMPLOYMENT:** Provides relative to the state minimum wage. (gov sig)

**SB 401 authored by Karen Carter Peterson**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=SB401&sbi=y>

**EMPLOYMENT:** Provides relative to an increase in the state minimum hourly wage. (2/3-CA7s2.1(A) (gov sig)

## HEALTH

We must continue to protect Medicaid for Louisiana families and begin to focus on health outcomes for children by increasing health, safety, and developmental screenings for EVERY Louisiana child.

We must expand home visiting, parent education programs, and Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECHM) programs to reduce Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and improve early child well-being for ALL Louisiana families.

We must continue to fund services to families of children with developmental disabilities and ensure that EVERY child has the opportunity to grow and thrive in the environment that is best for them and their family.

- **Physical Health and Development**
- **Social Emotional Development**
- **Development Disabilities**
- **Paid Family Medical Leave**
- **Fix Statutes of Domestic Violence Laws**
- **Medicaid Work Requirements** (*Monitor legislation in collaboration with our partners*)

**HB 191 authored by Rep. Mike Huval**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=HB191&sbi=y>

**STATE AGENCIES:** Provides for parish offices of the Dept. of Children and Family Services and the Dept. of Health

**HB 259 authored by Rep. Malinda White**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=HB259&sbi=y>

**TAX/INCOME TAX:** Creates an individual income tax checkoff for the Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response (STAR) organization

**HB 328 authored by Rep. Aimee Adatto Freeman**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=HB328&sbi=y>

**TAX/SALES-USE, LOCAL-EXEM:** Authorizes an exemption from local sales taxes for feminine hygiene products and diapers

**HB 342 authored by Rep. Aimee Adatto Freeman**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=HB342&sbi=y>

**LEASES:** Provides relative to sexual assault victims and certain residential lease agreements

**HB 407 authored by Jeremy LaCombe**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=HB407&sbi=y>

**INSURANCE/HEALTH:** Provides for health insurance coverage for participants in clinical trials

**HB 408 authored by Jeremy LaCombe**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=HB408&sbi=y>

**INSURANCE/HEALTH:** Provides for health insurance coverage of cancer treatments

**HB 435 authored by Edmond Jordan**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=HB435&sbi=y>

**HEALTH/MEDICAL TREATMENT:** Provides relative to nonconsensual pelvic or rectal examinations by health care providers and medical students

**HB 471 authored by Rep. Gary Carter**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=HB471&sbi=y>

**WEAPONS/FIREARMS:** Provides for the seizure of firearms from persons who pose a risk of imminent injury to self or others

**HB 596 authored by Rep. Barry Ivey**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=HB596&sbi=y>

**HEALTH/MEDICAL TREATMENT:** Provides relative to nonconsensual pelvic or rectal examinations by healthcare providers and medical students

**SB 494 authored by Sen. Troy Carter**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=SB494&sbi=y>

**INSURANCE POLICIES:** Provides relative to coverage for mastectomies and reconstructive surgery. (1/1/21)

## Domestic Violence

**HB 212 authored by Rep. Joseph Marino**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=HB212&sbi=y>

**CRIME/BATTERY:** Provides relative to domestic abuse

**HB 451 authored by Rep. Stephanie Hilferty**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=HB451&sbi=y>

**EVIDENCE:** Provides relative to hearsay exceptions in domestic abuse cases

**HB 544 authored by Rep. Malinda White**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=HB544&sbi=y>

**DOMESTIC ABUSE:** Provides for consistency in the Domestic Abuse Assistance Act

**HB 548 authored by Rep. C. Denise Marcelle**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=HB548&sbi=y>

**COURTS/COURT COSTS:** Provides relative to certain court fees for victims of domestic violence

**SB 87 authored by Sen. Fred Mills**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=SB87&sbi=y>

**ELDERLY:** Requires reports of elderly exploitation or extortion to be reported to local law enforcement agencies. (8/1/20) (OR NO IMPACT See Note)

**SB 188 authored by Mack Bodi White, Jr.**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=SB188&sbi=y>

**CRIME/PUNISHMENT:** Designates the crime of possession of a firearm by a felon as a "crime of violence". (gov sig)

**SB 230 authored by Sen. Regina Ashford Barrow**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=SB230&sbi=y>

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:** Provides relative to court costs and fees in domestic abuse cases. (gov sig)

**SB 243 authored by Gary L. Smith, Jr.**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=SB243&sbi=y>

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:** Requires a judge to keep a domestic abuse victim's address confidential under certain circumstances. (gov sig)

## COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING

We must protect the well-being of ALL Louisianans and eliminate the barriers that keep too many of us from opportunity.

We must continue to fund services to invest in the juvenile system by improving the rehabilitative services provided to youth offenders and give them a greater opportunity to remake their lives.

We must continue funding to protect children, support struggling families, and ensure additional state funding is available to implement the federal Family First Prevention Services Act.

We must invest in Equity, end discrimination and inequities in our state so that we ALL prosper together.

- **Sustain and Expand Criminal Justice Reform**
- **Protect Safety Net Programs**
- **Promote Economic Security**
- **Increase Funding for the Louisiana Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative (LAPRI)**
- **Support Gun Violence Prevention** (Partner with City of New Orleans and Jewish Federation of New Orleans to increase protections for faith based houses of worship and also engage hospitals.)
- **Human Trafficking** (Continue to monitor anything that comes under this issue)
- **Louisiana's Foster** (Maintain current state funding)

## Criminal Justice Reform

**HB 77 authored by Rep. Phillip DeVillier**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=HB77&sbi=y>

**PARDON/PAROLE:** Provides relative to the supervision and reporting requirements of persons on probation or parole.

**HB 231 authored by Edward Ted James**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=HB231&sbi=y>

**CRIMINAL/SENTENCING:** Increases the total number of credits that may be earned by an offender upon earning a bachelor's degree or master's degree

**HB 602 authored by Marcus Bryant**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=HB602&sbi=y>

**CRIMINAL/RECORDS:** Provides relative to criminal history record information for the Louisiana Department of Education

**SB 385 authored by Sen. Troy Carter**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=SB385&sbi=y>

**PROBATION/PAROLE:** Provides relative to medical parole eligibility for prisoners who are terminally ill or permanently disabled. (gov sig)

## Foster Care

**HB 171 authored by Rep. Jason Hughes**

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=20RS&b=HB171&sbi=y>

**CHILDREN/DCFS:** Provides a limited authorization for DCFS to obtain copies of birth and death certificates of certain children and adults

*Approved by UWSELA Public Policy Committee – February 19, 2020*

*Approved by UWSELA Board of Trustees – March 25, 2020*