



## LOUISIANA FEDERATION OF BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUBS, INC. LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

**The Louisiana Federation of Business and Professional Women promotes full participation, diversity, equity, and economic self-sufficiency for working women. Members, working together with nationally-elected legislative representatives and members of the state legislature, seek and support legislation that benefits women and families.**

### **I. Equal Rights Amendment**

The Alice Paul Equal Rights Amendment shall stand first, foremost, and above all other items which may appear on the Legislative Platform of the Louisiana Federation, until equal legal rights for women and men have become guaranteed in both the Louisiana and the United States Constitution.

#### **THE ALICE PAUL EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT:**

- Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.
- Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.
- Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

#### **Action Items**

- Support the "United For Equality" ERA Campaign Network's 3-State Strategy for elimination of the 1982 deadline for ERA ratification.
  - This includes partnering with other national organizations, including but not limited to AAUW, the League of Women Voters, LA Movement, and YWCA.
  - Work to obtain a House of Representatives sponsor for the 3-State Strategy Resolution
  - Members will participate in lobbying efforts with U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives.
- Support, without amendments, passage of a bill in the Louisiana Legislature for an act to add an Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution to the Constitution of the State of Louisiana.
  - Members will participate in ERA Awareness campaign to all Louisiana legislators and general public prior to the General Legislative Session.
  - Members will lobby state legislators to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.
- Support legislation that achieves gender balance on all state boards, commissions, councils, and committees.\*

### **II. Economic Equity**

Actively work to support equal educational opportunities; equal treatment for women in all areas of employment, including adequate retirement benefits, improved programs for women re-entering the workforce, and implementation of equal pay for work of comparable worth.

- Support passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act (S-182)
  - Obtain Senator Mary Landrieu's support as a co-sponsor



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- Work with other partnership organizations to obtain additional state senators as co-sponsors
- Support passage of a bill in the Louisiana Legislature eradicating gender based wage discrimination in the workplace.
- Support legislation supporting equality of workplace opportunity, with tax incentives for implementing pay equity/comparable worth.

**III. Women's Violence Prevention**

Actively work to strengthen and enforce legal protection for women who are victims of violent acts including domestic and/or sexual violence and/or hate crimes

- National - Support US Legislation HR840 - Military Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Act – by lobbying Louisiana legislators in support of this legislation
- National and State - Support legislation and government services which provides services and facilities for survivors of such violence and the funding thereof
- National and State - Support legislation which provides compensatory and punitive damage awards to victims
- National and State - Support strengthening of laws regarding assault of women and children, including mandatory intervention programs
- National and State - Support legislation which includes counseling services for to rape and assault victims in health care policies
- State and Local - Promote violence prevention programs
  - Recognition of signs of abuse and methods of intervention
  - Education of our members
  - Outreach/donations to local battered women's shelters

**PUBLIC POLICY**

- Actively work for the election of and appointment to policy-making positions those who support the BPW Louisiana Legislative Platform