



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 Constitutions.

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 United 4 Equality, L. L. C. and partners' campaign for elimination of the 1982 deadline for ERA ratification.
 - Partner with other state and national organizations, including but not limited to LAW, AAUW, the League of Women Voters, SPAN, NCJW and the YWCA.
 - Lobby U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives for passage of joint resolutions to eliminate the ratification deadline.
 - Lobby the U. S. President, U. S. Attorney General, and National Archivist for certification of Virginia's ERA ratification as the 38th and final state ratification needed, along with the publication of the ERA as the 28th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution.
- Support legislation that achieves gender balance on all state boards, commissions, councils, and committees.

II. Economic Security

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 in Congress.
- Support passage of state legislation eradicating gender-based wage discrimination and prohibiting pay secrecy, salary history inquiries, and retaliation in the workplace and in interviewing and other pre-employment processes.



- Lobby the state legislature for passage of legislation to establish a state minimum wage and to increase said wage to at least \$10.00/hr. in no more than three annual increments.
- Partner with Business for a Fair Minimum Wage, the “Fight for Fifteen” campaign, and other groups to lobby Congress for an increase in the national minimum wage to at least \$15.00/hr.
- Lobby the state legislature and Congress for passage of legislation related to paid sick and family leave, pregnancy discrimination, and other economic security issues affecting women and families.

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 and State - Support legislation and government services which provide 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 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

IV. Women’s Healthcare

Actively work to secure the implementation of keystone policies to improve health outcomes for women and families.

- Advocate for the improvement of the effectiveness, inclusiveness, and overall scope of the newly passed legislation establishing an Office on Women’s Health and Community Health.
- Partner with the Louisiana Center for Health Equity (LCHE) and others to reach LCHE’s health-ranking goal of #LA40x30 (to increase Louisiana’s women’s health ranking to 40th in the nation by 2030).

PUBLIC POLICY

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