



GFWC Legislation and Public Policy Quarterly Newsletter 2022-2024
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By Jennifer Jobe, GFWC Southeastern Region Representative

History of Advocacy

As we prepare to celebrate Women's History Month, we need to celebrate our rich History as Advocates! Our foundation is built on bipartisan advocacy efforts by initiating and supporting policy issues.

The founding women of our Federation didn't have a vote, but they did have a voice. They raised those voices to advocate for policies that resulted in enacting the Child Labor Law, the Minimum Wage Bill, the establishment of traveling libraries, the introduction of kindergarten in public schools, and a reduction of the acceptable limit for Blood Alcohol. We are well known for our grassroots efforts that result in nationwide initiatives.

During the early 1990s, GFWC partnered with other women's organizations to create the original legislation and authorization of the Violence Against Women Act. Our support appeared in the Summer 1993 issue of the GFWC Clubwoman Magazine, where Betty Brust (GFWC Legislation Chairman) wrote: "We support Senator Joseph Biden's (D-DE) Violence Against Women Act to increase federal funding to states for prevention, enforcement, and victim assistance and to make sexual assault a civil rights offense." President Bill Clinton signed the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (VAWA) on September 13, 1994.

From local clubs to international support, we advocate in many ways. The Morrow Civic Woman's Club, Lafayette Woman's Club, Lilburn Woman's Club, and Stone Mountain

Woman's Club joined forces to "Stand with Survivors" as a part of the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence and advocated for victims of domestic violence at the Georgia State Capitol. These clubs banded together with other organizations to advocate and show commitment to the GFWC Signature Program.



The GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship is another way we continue to support those impacted by Domestic Violence. Established in 2011, these scholarships provide a lifeline for survivors of intimate partner violence, offering them the opportunity to rebuild their lives through education and independence. GFWC not only supports survivors financially but also sends a powerful message of solidarity and empowerment to victims of violence. It's a testament to GFWC's ongoing commitment to creating a world free from domestic violence, one where survivors can thrive, succeed, and define their success!



GFWC members' voices were heard, and our actions were seen! GFWC has always been political but not partisan. Members look at the issue surrounding a particular piece of legislation, they do not care which side of the aisle the sponsoring legislator sits on, only what the issue addresses. The Legislative Action Center (LAC) is our primary tool to educate our members on relevant issues, allow us to unite in one voice, and easily reach

out to our legislators as issues move through the legislative process. The more active members on the LAC, the greater the opportunity to advocate for those in need.



GFWC of North Carolina has created a contest among its Districts to increase the number of active members using the LAC. This tool can help keep members updated on relevant legislative issues supported by GFWC at the federal or state levels. Members also have a chance to win a monetary prize and a Proclamation from GFWC-NC. We are proud of this legacy and

continue to encourage members that TOGETHER We Advocate For Those In Need.

GFWC Scavenger Hunt

The deadline for submitting your Scavenger Hunt forms to Chairman Juliet Casper is May 1st. The form can be found in the Member Portal's Digital Library under "L" and is also attached to this newsletter. Just email it to jcasper9200@gmail.com, and we would love to have photos of the completed activities to share in News & Notes and our GFWC social media platforms.

GFWC Legislation and Public Policy Committee

The members of the GFWC Legislation and Public Policy Committee are here for you. Please contact the members in your region with any questions you may have. We would love to speak to your state federation or club in person or via Zoom.

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