

# NC Women United Report Card of the General Assembly

2017-2018 Legislative Session





## About North Carolina Women United

NC Women United (NCWU) is a coalition of progressive state and local organizations working to achieve the full political, social, and economic equality of *all* women across North Carolina. NCWU works to build women's power through grassroots activism, community organizing, legislative advocacy, and engagement in the political process.

### Introduction

Women in the United States have reached many milestones in the fight to secure equality, but work remains. The same is true for women in the Tar Heel state. Despite decades worth of great progress, women in North Carolina continue to face challenges that impede on our ability to flourish beyond the inequalities that impact us. These barriers are especially great for women of color, queer women, and women with disabilities. The past year has been a stark reminder that we still live in a society steeped in institutionalized patriarchy. The impact of this allows rape culture to thrive while normalizing gender wage gaps, promoting inadequate access to quality childcare, and restrictions on reproductive health care among other things.

On the heels of each legislative long session and with these deep-rooted systems in mind, NC Women United releases a Report Card on the status of prioritized issues that are key to promoting women's equality. The goal of the Report Card is to inform our coalition members and our allies of what is happening at the North Carolina General Assembly, and how that impacts the everyday lives of North Carolina women. This Report Card is to best inform you of what is happening on Jones Street, and what steps we can take as women to set ourselves and North Carolina up to give women and all citizens the tools we need to succeed. In each of our priority areas, we have identified the policy goal(s), and what actions we would like the General Assembly to take. Based on the actions taken, the NCGA is given a grade from A-F on each policy goal. Immediately following the initial report card are attachments that include bills considered or passed on each topic.

We believe that change can happen. Through education, awareness and civic participation we will continue to push for policy that improves the quality of life for all women in NC. It is our hope that based on the information in this Report Card, Tar Heel women will better understand how the NCGA has, or hasn't, worked for them this past legislative session; and will use this information when electing and working with state lawmakers. We believe bringing women's voices and concerns to the NCGA will create a North Carolina that works for Tar Heel citizens.

Charnessa Ridley,  
President, NC Women United

# Grading Scale

GRADE	EXPLANATION
A	The legislature accomplished our desired goal(s) in the specific policy area
B	The legislature accomplished most of our goal(s), but there is room for improvement.
C	The legislature accomplished some goals, but did not accomplish other goal(s), or took both good and bad actions(s) in the specific policy area.
D	The legislature did not accomplish our goal(s), or took bad action(s) in the specific policy area.
F	The legislature did not take any action toward desired goal(s), or took action that hurt our legislative goal(s) in the specific policy area.

## Enhance Economic Self Sufficiency

<b>Policy Goal: Enhance Economic Self Sufficiency</b>	<b>Grade</b>
Enhance family economic security	D
Guarantee workers a minimum number of paid sick days	F
Establish a state-run paid family and medical leave insurance program	F
Pass the Family Stabilization Act	F
Increase Protections for pregnant workers*	F
Restore unemployment benefits	F
Restore housing as an eligible use for North Carolina Community Development Block Grant allotment.	F
Adequately fund Hurricane Matthew Relief	C
Reinstate the state Earned Income Tax Credit	F
Create a refundable child and dependent care tax credit	F
Reverse ban for SNAP benefits	F

## Expand Access to Health Care

<b>Policy Goal: Expand Access To Health Care</b>	<b>Grade</b>
Use federal funds set aside for North Carolina to expand health insurance coverage	F
Prevent the restructuring of Medicaid	F
Preserve the Healthy Youth Act of 2009	C
Protect and expand access to all reproductive health care	F
Require that tax-funded Crisis Pregnancy Centers provide medically accurate information	F
Establish clear protections for children, pregnant women and communities that are heavily affected by pollution and toxic chemicals	F

## End Gender Based Violence

<b>Policy Goal: End Gender Based Violence</b>	<b>Grade</b>
Enact common sense gun safety regulations	F
Amend the “Disclosure of Private Images “offense	A
Ensure adequate funding to the Family Court system	F
Amend NC General Statute 50B/50C	F
Expand protection for sexual violence victims	F

## Increase Civic Participation and Equality

<b>Policy Goal: Increase Civic Participation And Equality</b>	<b>Grade</b>
Repeal HB2	D
Raise the age of juvenile jurisdiction	A
Expand non-discrimination protections	F
Increase accountability in law enforcement	F
Increase the scope of and penalties for hate crimes	F
Expand the authority of local governments to establish citizen review boards	F
Pass legislation ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.	F
Establish an independent redistricting process	F
Provide fair treatment to immigrants living in NC by expanding access to state driver's licenses; and providing in-state tuition	F
Oppose legislation that seeks to create additional barriers to safety and critical resources for immigrants residing and working in North Carolina	F
Protect voter rights	F
Oppose legislation that creates overt partisanship and support laws that create open, transparent elections and government	F

# Education Summary

**Public Schools:** State spending per student remains below pre-recession levels when adjusted for inflation under the new budget. Enrollment in North Carolina public schools has increased by nearly 91,000 students since 2008, yet no additional funding is provided for the estimated \$293 million needed by schools to meet state-mandated class size reduction requirements – creating an unfunded mandate that passes the buck down to local communities. In the 2018-2019 budget, legislators increased teacher pay an average of 6.5%, and increased principal pay an average of 6.9%.

**School Safety:** Legislators did use the 2018 budget to address school safety and the needs for public education. In the 2018-2019 budget, the General Assembly included the following school safety provisions: \$5 Million for Student Threat Reporting App; \$10 Million for Mental Health Grants for Personnel; \$3 Million for School Based Mental Health Training for Professionals; \$2 Million for Community Partners for Grants for Students in Crisis (will have language as to how this is defined); \$3 Million in School Safety Equipment Grants; \$12 Million in SRO Grants: (\$7 million currently funded + \$5 million new funding- \$2 match for every \$1 local funding); and \$30-90 million in new federal funding for student health funding. This school safety package totaled \$35 million for initiatives (\$28 million is new funding from FY 2017-2018).

**School Bond:** While the legislature opted to avoid hearing the NC School Bond proposal, they did appropriate \$241 million to school construction projects. The 2018 budget provision was an increase from the revenue of the lottery system that is dedicated to school construction.

**Higher Education:** Beyond additional funding for pay increase, net new spending for 4-year public universities is flat for FY18. While there was originally a \$7 million state funding cut to the University of North Carolina System's operating budget for the second year of the two-year budget, legislators ended up increasing the UNC budget by 1.8%, and allotted funding for UNC Medical needs. Community colleges received an increase of 3.8%, with a focus on workforce training. Community colleges also received a one-time increase of \$1.8 million to offset the decline in enrollment due to Hurricane Matthew. While specific programs were funded, the funding dedicated to education itself is part of steady flexibility cuts in recent years, which total more than \$660 million since 2010. While increasing spending to community colleges and UNC, the 2018-2019 budget also slashed funding aimed at East Carolina University (\$1.1million cut), NC State University, UNC Greensboro, UNC Charlotte, and NC A & T University. These cuts add to the recent trend of legislators funding projects at certain universities, while slashing others for seemingly no reason. No additional funding has been provided to lower tuition cost (credit hour cost) at community colleges, which has increased by 81% since 2009.

## Education Bills and Summaries from 2018:

### Education Summary

<https://www.ncleg.net/RD/SummariesPublication/2018/Education.pdf>

# Revenue Summary

For the 2019 fiscal year (FY19) – which runs from July 2018 through June 2019 – the \$23.9 billion in General Fund spending is 3.85 percent above prior fiscal year spending. Since 2011, legislators have averaged a 2.7 annual spending growth per year. While growth in spending is slightly above the arbitrary formula of population plus inflation that budget writers use as a guide for determining targets, spending under the new budget is insufficient to keep up with the growing cost of delivering public services to the state’s growing population and to make up for ground lost during the Great Recession.

Under the new budget, total state spending for FY19 also remains below 2008 pre-recession spending and marks ten consecutive years of decline in state spending as a share of the state’s economy. Furthermore, nearly all core areas of the state budget remain below or near pre-recession spending levels when adjusted for inflation. Beyond additional state funding for state employee pay increases, year-over-year net new spending for FY19 is a mere 1.4 percent above prior fiscal year spending. If the legislature chose to fund operations and capital improvements, the spending growth would have to be at about 4.5%. Consequently, spending under the new budget falls short of ensuring core public investments are adequately funded and communities across the state can thrive.

## **Revenue Bills and Summaries from 2018:**

### Finance Summaries

<https://www.ncleg.net/Applications/SummariesPublication/Home/BySubject/2018/11/>

### Base and Expansion Budget Report

[https://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2017/Budget/2018/conference\\_committee\\_report\\_2018\\_05\\_28.pdf](https://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2017/Budget/2018/conference_committee_report_2018_05_28.pdf)

## NC Women United Bill Chart with Links

### Goal: Enhance Economic Self Sufficiency

Goal	Grade	Bills That Passed	Bills Introduced (Did not Pass) that Promote our Vision	Bills Introduced (Did Not Pass) that Hurt our Vision
<p>Enhance family economic security by raising the minimum wage to \$15/hour in 5 years and tying it to inflation, requiring taxpayer-supported jobs to meet a living-income standard, and allowing local governments to require private employers to pay a living wage.</p>	D	<p><a href="#">2018 Budget Committee Report Page 424</a></p> <p><a href="#">Also Included in Economic Security act</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Living Wage by 2022</a></p> <p><a href="#">Up Minimum Wage/Set Rates/COLA</a></p> <p><a href="#">North Carolina Equal Pay Act</a></p>	None
<p>Guarantee all workers a minimum number of paid sick days to allow workers to seek preventative health care and avoid financial ruin brought on by short-term illness, injury, or other life event and allow workers to use their paid sick days to care for a close family member.</p>	F	None	<p><a href="#">Economic Security Act of 2017</a></p>	None
<p>Establish a state-run paid family and medical leave insurance program and broaden the reach of the federal program</p>	F	None	<p><a href="#">Economic Security Act of 2017</a></p>	None

Goal	Grade	Bills That Passed	Bills Introduced (Did not Pass) that Promote our Vision	Bills Introduced (Did Not Pass) that Hurt our Vision
by expanding eligibility so workers can use FMLA leave to care for a sibling, grandparent, grandchild, stepparent, or parent-in-law.				
Pass the Family Stabilization Act, a bill to close the gender wage gap and ensure that equally qualified and equally performing women earn the same wages as their male colleagues.	F	None	<u>Families' Stabilization Act</u>	None
Address the lack of protection for pregnant workers by requiring employers to make reasonable accommodations to employees who have physical limitations related to pregnancy; and prohibit employers from retaliating or discriminating against a worker who requests a reasonable accommodation.	F	None	None	None
Restore unemployment benefits that were slashed in 2013 because the program now	F	None	None	None

Goal	Grade	Bills That Passed	Bills Introduced (Did not Pass) that Promote our Vision	Bills Introduced (Did Not Pass) that Hurt our Vision
reaches too few jobless workers for too short a period and provides them too little in payments.				
Increase funding to the NC Housing Trust Fund and the NC Workforce Housing Loan Fund to ensure that women and working families are able to pay for housing expenses and still pay for basic necessities like childcare and groceries.	F	None	None	None
Restore housing as an eligible use for North Carolina Community Development Block Grant allotment.	F	None	<u>CDBG: Modify Uses to Scattered Sites</u>	None
Adequately fund Hurricane Matthew Relief, especially affordable housing for displaced residents.	C	<u>Disaster Recovery Act of 2017</u>  <u>2018 Budget, Page 12 of Committee Report</u>	None	None
Increase recurring funding for the Home and Community Block grant to reduce waiting lists - which currently stand at more than 8000 names	C	<u>2018 Budget</u>  (Added an additional 1.1 million(Recurring) to HCBG; will provide services to an additional 575 seniors. Also allowed the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians to distribute	None	None

Goal	Grade	Bills That Passed	Bills Introduced (Did not Pass) that Promote our Vision	Bills Introduced (Did Not Pass) that Hurt our Vision
- for home care services, to provide the elderly the needed services to keep them in their homes.		their HCBG)		
Support wage increases for direct care workers by raising the Medicaid reimbursement rate to the national average of \$18.82 per hour; this will help reduce turnover, and provide consistent, quality care to this vulnerable population that requires in-home medical care.	D	<u>2018 Technical Corrections Bill</u>  <u>Study on Medicaid reimbursement for implementation of plan including direct care workers</u>	<u>Caregiver Relief Act</u>  <u>Increase Personal Care Service Rates</u>	None
Reinstate the state Earned Income Tax Credit to restore equity in the tax system, fight child poverty, and support work force participation by allowing low-wage workers to keep more of what they earn.	F	None	<u>Economic Security Act of 2017</u>	None
Create a refundable child and dependent care tax credit to offset high care costs and support working families with caregiving	F	None	<u>Reenact Employment-Related Tax Credit</u>	

Goal	Grade	Bills That Passed	Bills Introduced (Did not Pass) that Promote our Vision	Bills Introduced (Did Not Pass) that Hurt our Vision
responsibilities; and increase the number of child-care subsidies to better address the growing waitlists.				
Reverse the state's ban of time-limit waivers for Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs) who receive Supplemental Nutrition.	F	None	None	None
Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits; fund and expand SNAP Employment and Training opportunities; and preserve categorical eligibility and reject additional work requirements for SNAP eligibility in order to protect the 630,000 North Carolina families who are currently "food insecure".	F	<u>2017 Budget, Page 172 Increase SNAP for Dual Eligible Seniors</u>	None	<u>Eligibility Reform/Medicaid/SNAP</u>

## NC Women United Bill Chart with Links

### Goal: Expand Access to Health Care

Goal	Grade	Bills That Passed	Bills Introduced (Did not Pass) that Promote our Vision	Bills Introduced (Did Not Pass) that Hurt our Vision
Use federal funds set aside for North Carolina to expand health insurance coverage to people who currently fall in the Medicaid gap.	F	None	<a href="#">Carolina Cares</a>  <a href="#">Medicaid Expansion/Heathcare Jobs Initiative</a>	None
Prevent the restructuring of Medicaid into a block grant or a per capita cap program to protect and maintain current coverage.	F	None	None	None
Preserve the Healthy Youth Act of 2009, which was designed to provide medically accurate and factual, age appropriate health and sexual education and information for students in K-12 schools; and prevent any amendments to the act that allow for medically inaccurate or misleading information to be	C	Wasn't punctured with bad bills, but not strengthened.  **Will likely come up in 2019**	None	None

Goal	Grade	Bills That Passed	Bills Introduced (Did not Pass) that Promote our Vision	Bills Introduced (Did Not Pass) that Hurt our Vision
added; and/or that provide platforms for information that is politically-driven, rather than led by scientific and medical advancements.				
Protect and expand access to all reproductive health care; and ensure that women are able to access the full range of safe and legal reproductive health care options, including abortion care and birth control, without government or employer intrusion or restriction, and without undue financial hardship; ensure women's health clinic regulations are based on sound science and medical information rather than political ideology.	F	None	<u>Whole Woman's Health Act</u>	<u>Protect Unborn Child from Dismemberment Act</u>  <u>Woman's Right to Know/Ashley's Law</u>  <u>Require Info About Abortion Pill Reversal</u>
Require that tax-funded Crisis Pregnancy Centers provide medically accurate information;	F	None; however there was a funding increase in the <u>2017 Budget, Page 117</u>	None	None

Goal	Grade	Bills That Passed	Bills Introduced (Did not Pass) that Promote our Vision	Bills Introduced (Did Not Pass) that Hurt our Vision
<p>be transparent and honest in their advertising about the services they provide and the qualifications of their staff; and respect client confidentiality.</p>				
<p>Establish clear protections for children, pregnant women and communities that are heavily affected by pollution and toxic chemicals, including lead in water. This includes laying the burden of proof for chemical safety on manufacturers rather than the public, and empowering NC DEQ to move quickly on protecting the public from the worst chemicals.</p>	F	None	<u>Protect NC Children From Lead Exposure</u>	None

## NC Women United Bill Chart with Links

### Goal: End Gender Based Violence

Goal	Grade	Bills That Passed	Bills Introduced (Did not Pass) that Promote our Vision	Bills Introduced (Did Not Pass) that Hurt our Vision
<p>Enact common sense gun safety regulations such as closing the background check loophole; and protect existing measure such as the restrictions of firearms on school grounds, and the pistol permitting process and training requirements in order to carry concealed. In addition, expand existing laws regarding child access to guns to hold adults accountable when a child is injured or killed with a firearm, or injures or kills someone else, by increasing penalties for unsafe firearm storage.</p>	F	None	<p><a href="#"><u>Gun Safety Act</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>Ensure Safe Handguns</u></a></p>	<p><a href="#"><u>Omnibus Gun Changes</u></a></p>
<p>Amend the “Disclosure of Private Images” offense to improve victim safety and offender</p>	A	<p><a href="#"><u>Stop Images taken Without Consent of Dissemination</u></a></p>	None	None

Goal	Grade	Bills That Passed	Bills Introduced (Did not Pass) that Promote our Vision	Bills Introduced (Did Not Pass) that Hurt our Vision
<p>accountability by: expanding the law to protect all victims, not just those in a “personal relationship” with the offender, and those who images were originally taken without their consent; and protect victims when perpetrators superimpose images on their likeness.</p>				
<p>Ensure adequate funding to the Family Court system to support swifter and better custody outcomes for domestic violence survivors.</p>	F	<p>After removal of access to civil justice funding in 2017 budget, the NCGA , while leaving in the .95 for domestic violence survivors, did not replace that funding for Legal Aid, which affects all survivors.</p>		
<p>Amend NC General Statue 50B to: remove the discriminatory “opposite sex” requirement for dating relationships; and reinstate district court judges’ authority to order the surrender of firearms in any domestic violence</p>	F	None	<p><u>Extreme Risk Protective Orders</u></p>	None

Goal	Grade	Bills That Passed	Bills Introduced (Did not Pass) that Promote our Vision	Bills Introduced (Did Not Pass) that Hurt our Vision
protection order (DVPO) case where the judge finds it an appropriate remedy for the safety of the victim and children.				
Expand protection for sexual violence victims by removing statute language that indicates consent, once given, can't be withdrawn; and by clarifying that victims who knowingly drank alcohol or took drugs can be considered “mentally incapacitated” and unable to consent to sexual acts.	D	<u>People First Language</u>	<u>Revoke Consent for Intercourse</u>  <u>IHE Sexual Assault Policies/Sexual Consent</u>	None
Amend NC General Statute 50B/50C to accept electronic filing requests from “rape crisis centers” in addition to “domestic violence programs”.	F	None	None	None

## NC Women United Bill Chart with Links

### Goal: Increase Civic Participation

Goal	Grade	Bills That Passed	Bills Introduced (Did not Pass) that Promote our Vision	Bills Introduced (Did Not Pass) that Hurt our Vision
Repeal HB2 cleanly, without further attempts to deprive marginalized communities of the right to protection from discrimination.	D	<a href="#">H142</a>	<a href="#">Equality for All/Repeal HB2</a>  <a href="#">HB Repeal/Equality for All</a>  <a href="#">A Common Sense Repeal of HB2</a>	None
Raise the age of juvenile jurisdiction to age 18 and stop prosecuting 16- and 17-year-olds as adults.	A	<a href="#">2017 Budget</a>  Page 307	None	None
Expand non-discrimination protections in housing, employment (including unpaid internships), public accommodations, insurance, lending institutions, and education.	F	None	<a href="#">Statewide Nondiscrimination; Funds</a>	None
Increase accountability in law enforcement by prohibiting discriminatory profiling; requiring enhanced reporting	F	None	<a href="#">The Antidiscrimination Act of 2017</a>	None

Goal	Grade	Bills That Passed	Bills Introduced (Did not Pass) that Promote our Vision	Bills Introduced (Did Not Pass) that Hurt our Vision
<p>on information collected at traffic stops; collecting additional information on use of deadly force by law enforcement regarding characteristics of officers and victims; and updating training and education of law enforcement on issues of discrimination.</p>				
<p>Increase the scope of and penalties for hate crimes, to demonstrate commitment to and further enhance the safety and security for all populations in North Carolina.</p>	<b>F</b>	None	<p><u>Hate Crimes, Increase Scope and Penalty</u></p> <p><u>Increase Hate Crime Punishment</u></p> <p><u>Hate Crimes Prevention Act</u></p>	None
<p>Expand the authority of local governments to establish citizen review boards to investigate police misconduct.</p>	<b>F</b>	None	<p><u>Citizen Review Boards Established</u></p>	None
<p>Pass legislation ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.</p>	<b>F</b>	None	<p><u>NC Adopt Equal Rights Amendment/Funds</u></p>	None
<p>Establish an</p>	<b>F</b>	<u>Judicial Redistricting</u>	<u>Nonpartisan</u>	No others

Goal	Grade	Bills That Passed	Bills Introduced (Did not Pass) that Promote our Vision	Bills Introduced (Did Not Pass) that Hurt our Vision
independent redistricting process to draw legislative & congressional districts.			<u>Redistricting Commission</u>	
Provide fair treatment to immigrants living in NC by expanding access to state driver's licenses; allowing all residents of NC to pay in-state tuition for higher education; expanding worker protections to include all workers, regardless of immigration status; and repeal laws barring NC municipalities from designating their communities as sanctuary cities.	<b>F</b>	None	<u>In State Tuition Equity</u>	<u>Unlicensed Driver/Tow Vehicle</u>
Oppose legislation that seeks to create additional barriers to safety and critical resources for immigrants residing and working in North Carolina; and that limits local governments' and law enforcement's efforts to	<b>F</b>	None	None	<u>No Bill Powell Funds/Sanctuary Cities</u>

Goal	Grade	Bills That Passed	Bills Introduced (Did not Pass) that Promote our Vision	Bills Introduced (Did Not Pass) that Hurt our Vision
better integrate immigrants into their communities.				
Protect our vote: oppose additional onerous requirements for voter registration and access, such as attacks on popular voting safety nets like same-day registration and needless challenges to innocent voters; and support regulations that make voting more accessible, such as increased voting sites and hours, and expanded online options for voter registration.	<b>F</b>	<u>Voter ID Constitutional Amendment</u>	<u>Universal Voter Registration</u>  <u>Automatic Voter Registration</u>	None

Goal	Grade	Bills That Passed	Bills Introduced (Did not Pass) that Promote our Vision	Bills Introduced (Did Not Pass) that Hurt our Vision
Protect our democracy: oppose overt partisanship in our judicial branch, education and election boards; and changes to branch powers that weaken governmental checks and balances; and support laws that create open, transparent elections and government.	F	<u><a href="#">Nonpartisan Judicial Merit Selection Constitutional Amendment</a></u>  <u><a href="#">Bipartisan Board of Ethics and Election Constitutional Amendment</a></u>	None	None

## Notes About The North Carolina Women United Report Card

### Grading Scale

The grading scale this year was changed from the previous grades (Very Good, Mixed, Very Bad, etc.). NCWU chose to do this to give the Report Card a more readable look that members could understand. We want to provide context aside from the Report Card Scale on page 3. For the Grading Scale, we converted the previous year’s grading scale directly to the A-F scale. Page 3 explains most of these differences, but we wanted to clarify the change and clarify the difference in D and F. For D, the legislature either: did not accomplish the specified policy goal or took bad action that would potentially hurt our specified policy goal. To receive an F, the legislature either purposefully did not take any action towards the specified policy goal or enacted bad policy that hurts our specified policy goal.

### Bill Charts with Links

The bill charts included in the 2018 NCWU Report Card include clickable hyperlinks to the bill text or enacted law if applicable. If you have printed out a hard copy of the Report Card, the charts include the bill titles that are searchable at this link: <https://www.ncleg.net/Search/Search/BillText>. At this site, you can type in the exact wording from the charts and find the necessary bill if you are interested in the text.

