

2021 ILLINOIS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



WOMEN EMPLOYED OVERVIEW

Since 1973, Women Employed (WE) has been on the forefront of every major advancement for working women in Chicago, Illinois, and the nation—from winning family and medical leave and fair pay legislation, to outlawing sexual harassment and pregnancy discrimination and opening doors to quality education and training programs through financial aid and other supports. WE's mission is to improve the economic status of women and remove barriers to economic equity. WE relentlessly pursues equity for women in the workforce by working with lawmakers, educators, businesspeople, and community leaders to effect policy change, expand access to educational opportunities, and advocate for fair and inclusive workplaces.

PASSED! Supporting Student Parents

SB 267 – Sen. Villanueva/Rep. Guzzardi
Nationally, more than 1 in 5 college students are parents. They are juggling the demands of raising children alongside the demands of school and, often, work. In Illinois, however, few institutions collect information about their student parents, which makes it difficult to understand and meet their needs. The Student Parent Data Collection Act will:

- ▶ Require institutions of higher education to collect and report data about student parents.

Paid Sick Time

**HB 3898 – Rep. Gordon-Booth/
Sen. Lightford**
Law in AZ, CA, CT, CO, DC, MA, MD, ME, MI, NJ, NV, NY, OR, RI, VT, WA—and Chicago & Cook Co.

To prevent workers from having to choose between their job and their health, the Healthy Workplace Act would:

- ▶ Ensure that all workers can accrue some paid sick time, earned at 1 hour for every 40 hours worked, to at least 40 hours per year; and
- ▶ Allow employee paid sick time usage for:
 - 1) their own, or a family member's illness or medical appointment;
 - 2) domestic or sexual violence;
 - 3) a public health emergency closure of a child's school or care facility; or
 - 4) a civil or criminal hearing or prison visit.

PASSED! Equitably Fund Higher Education

SB 815 – Sen. Lightford/Rep. Ammons
Illinois must equitably invest in its most vulnerable students and institutions, ensuring that students of color and struggling students and families have the resources, programs, and services they need to succeed in college. The Commission on Equitable Public University Funding will:

- ▶ Create a commission to develop a funding models and approaches that equitably allocate funding for our public institutions of higher education.

Paid Family and Medical Leave

SB 835 – Sen. Villivalam
Law in CA, CO, CT, DC, MA, NJ, NY, RI, OR, & WA.
All workers will need paid leave to care for their own or a family member's serious illness, or when they become a parent. The Family and Medical Leave Insurance Act would:

- ▶ Provide partial wage replacement for 26 weeks of leave per year.
- ▶ Allow employees to use leave for:
 - 1) birth or adoption of a new child;
 - 2) their own or a family member's illness;
 - 3) Recovery from domestic or sexual violence;
 - 4) the active military duty of a family member; or
 - 5) maintenance of a healthy pregnancy.

(Continued on reverse)

OTHER LEGISLATION WE ARE FOLLOWING

See what else is related to our agenda for Illinois' working women

Legislation We Support

PASSED! SB 669: Student Loan Debt Relief

Streamlines regulation and prosecution of student loan debt relief scams engaging in unlawful practices, such as settling debts without a license and collecting upfront fees greater than \$50 to settle debts.

PASSED! HB 2746: Know Before You Owe

Provides increased transparency of the private student loan market by requiring schools to report what companies are lending to their students.

PASSED! HB 3223: Ensuring Success in Schools

Ensures at least one staffer at each school knows how to respond to disclosures of domestic or sexual violence or gender-based harassment

PASSED! HB 2878: Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Act

Creates a consortium that helps early childhood educators access the postsecondary courses they need and ensures that students seeking Early Childhood degrees can transfer into four-year universities without losing any credits or having to re-take courses.

PASSED! SB 190: Higher Education Homeless Liaison

Requires higher education institutions to designate a staff person to serve as a liaison for homeless students or students in care to better meet their unique needs during college.

PASSED! HB 3438: Higher Education Dream Resource Liaison

Requires higher education institutions to designate a staff person to serve as a liaison for undocumented students to better meet their unique needs during college.

PASSED! HB 226: Higher Education Fair Admissions Act

Requires that public colleges and universities make optional the use of standardized tests in the admissions process.

Funding We Need

\$28 MILLION MORE! Monetary Award Program (MAP) Grants

With an additional \$50 million investment in MAP, we can begin to make college more affordable for some of the more than 80,000 eligible students denied grants each year.

Mental Health Early Action on Campus Act

Passed in 2019, this important act addresses gaps in mental health services on college campuses but needs an appropriation of \$19 million to ensure success.

For more information on our legislative priorities, please contact:

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