

Annual Report 2023



New York State Senate Standing Committee on Women's Issues

Senator Lea Webb

Chair



Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins
President Pro Tempore
NYS Senate Majority Leader

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**THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK**



**SENATOR
LEA WEBB
52ND DISTRICT**

CHAIR
WOMEN'S ISSUES
COMMITTEES
AGRICULTURE
CITIES 2
HEALTH
HIGHER EDUCATION
MENTAL HEALTH
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTS

December 15, 2023

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Temporary President and Majority Leader
New York State Senate
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins:

I am pleased to submit the Annual Report of the Senate's Standing Committee on Women's Issues for the 2023 Legislative Session. As Chair, I am proud to continue to lead our efforts to address important matters under my committee's jurisdiction. The Committee remains committed to supporting New York in leading the Nation on women's rights, issues and health.

During the 2023 Session, the Women's Issues Committee met five times, reporting 22 bills and providing consent to move an additional two bills through the Rules Committee. This past year, the Committee also held a meeting with the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, in addition to a public hearing to examine whether the current continuum of care is meeting the needs of survivors of gender-based and domestic violence, with pertinent human service agencies, advocates, and service providers.

I thank my colleagues who served on the Committee for their efforts and support of the work that we accomplished together this year, and I thank you for the continued support from the Majority Conference in the Committee's operations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lea Webb".

Senator Lea Webb
52nd Senate District

2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S ISSUES

Senator Lea Webb, Chairperson

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

MAJORITY MEMBERS

Senator Roxanne J. Persaud
Senator Julia Salazar
Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton
Senator José M. Serrano

MINORITY MEMBERS

Senator Alexis Weik, Ranking Member
Senator Patricia M. Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick

COMMITTEE STAFF

Amanda Fallon – Director
Carolyn Sheridan – Senior Counsel
Abigail Melendez – Committee Clerk

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Women's Issues has legislative oversight responsibilities concerning the right, health and any issues pertaining to women in New York State. This includes legislation dealing with reproductive health, bodily autonomy, and women's rights.

During the 2023 Legislative Session, thirty-seven bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, twenty-two were reported from the Committee with two additional bills discharged through the Rules committee. Twenty-one bills were passed by the Senate, and nine passed in both houses. This work was conducted through a series of five committee meetings. A list of all bills that were reported from the committee is provided at the end of this report.

In addition to its regular meetings, the Committee held a meeting with the Office of Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV) and a joint hearing with the Senate Social Services Committee on domestic violence. In the meeting with OPDV, committee members were educated on the role of OPDV, the resources that are available for domestic violence victims through the office, and the critical issues facing providers of services for victims of domestic violence across the state. The joint hearing examined whether the current continuum of care is meeting the needs of survivors of gender-based and domestic violence, with pertinent human service agencies, advocates, and service providers giving testimony on the state of services.

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The following key bills were acted on by the committee in 2023:

- S.3608A (Webb) – Chapter 588 of 2023. This bill directs the Department of Health to create and make available a video regarding the dangers of drowning geared toward toddlers and young children to be viewed by new parents prior to their release from the maternity ward.
- S.4263 (Webb) – Chapter 490 of 2023. Relates to information concerning services for human trafficking victims in lactation rooms in Port of New York Authority terminals.
- S.4266A (Webb) - **Chapter 732 of 2023**. Establishes a task force on missing women and girls who are Black, Indigenous and people of color.
- S.4267 (Webb) – Chapter 495 of 2023. Requires the Port Authority to provide information concerning services for human trafficking victims in lactation rooms at its bus terminals.
- S.5913A (Chu) – Chapter 662 of 2023. This bill requires menstrual products to be offered for free in non-public schools.
- S.6082A (Fernandez) Chapter 533 of 2023. This bill will provide informational pamphlets for those experiencing pregnancy loss or infant loss on what to expect and resources to help them navigate through the healing process.

A complete list of all chaptered bills and a summary of committee activity is provided at the end of this report.

TWO HOUSE BILLS

In 2023, twenty-four of the thirty-seven bills referred to the Standing Committee on Women’s Issues passed both houses of the Legislature. Of these bills, the Governor has signed nine and one bill is awaiting the Governor’s action.

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Action
S1522	Persaud	Replaces all instances of the words or variations of the words feminine hygiene products and sanitary napkins with the words menstrual products or pads, respectively	Chapter 650 of 2023
S3608A	Webb	Relates to establishing a video on the dangers of drowning for infants and young children to be viewed by maternity patients and guardians of newborn children	Chapter 588 of 2023
S3609B	Webb	Enhances the scope of health equity impact assessments to require consideration of reproductive health services and maternal health care	Chapter 702 of 2023
S4263	Webb	Relates to information concerning services for human trafficking victims in lactation rooms	Chapter 490 of 2023
S4266A	Webb	Establishes a task force on missing women and girls who are Black, Indigenous and people of color	Chapter 732 of 2023
S4267	Webb	Requires information concerning services for human trafficking victims to be provided in lactation rooms in Port Authority bus terminals	Chapter 495 of 2023
S4981B	Brouk	Requires a healthcare provider to inform the patient of options for treatment following confirmation of fetal demise	Chapter 542 of 2023
S5313A	Chu	Requires feminine hygiene products to be offered for free in non-public schools	Chapter 662 of 2023
S6082A	Fernandez	Requires the commissioner of health to develop a pamphlet providing information and resources to individuals who have suffered a pregnancy loss or infant loss to be distributed by maternal healthcare providers	Chapter 533 of 2023

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Bill No.	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Action
S200	Cleare	Provides for coverage of primary and preventative obstetric and gynecological care	Reported to Insurance
S201	Cleare	Permits pregnant women to enroll in health insurance during a special enrollment period without penalty	Passed the Senate
S1193	Persaud	Ensures ovarian cancer survivors have the right to access screenings for health conditions	Passed the Senate
S1522	Persaud	Replaces all instances of the words or variations of the words feminine hygiene products and sanitary napkins with the words menstrual products or pads, respectively	Chapter 650 of 2023
S2463A	Persaud	Directs the department of health to create an informational pamphlet regarding the laparoscopic power morcellation surgery technique	Passed the Senate
S2472	Cleare	Provides for third trimester syphilis testing	Passed the Senate
S3219	Cleare	Relates to establishing a uterine fibroids awareness and education program	Passed the Senate
S3221	Cleare	Establishes the fibroid study fund	Passed the Senate
S3529A	Fernandez	Provides for the regulation of ingredients in menstrual products	Passed the Senate
S3608A	Webb	Relates to establishing a video on the dangers of drowning for infants and young children to be viewed by maternity patients and guardians of newborn children	Chapter 588 of 2023
S3609B	Webb	Enhances the scope of health equity impact assessments to require consideration of reproductive health services and maternal health care	Chapter 702 of 2023
S3610	Webb	Requires certain information about the facility be provided to prospective maternity patients	Passed the Senate
S4263	Webb	Relates to information concerning services for human trafficking victims in lactation rooms	Chapter 490 of 2023
S4264	Webb	Relates to women's health in correctional facilities	Reported to Finance

S4266A	Webb	Establishes a task force on missing women and girls who are Black, Indigenous and people of color	Chapter 732 of 2023
S4267	Webb	Requires information concerning services for human trafficking victims to be provided in lactation rooms in Port Authority bus terminals	Chapter 495 of 2023
S4981B	Brouk	Requires a healthcare provider to inform the patient of the options for treatment following confirmation of fetal or embryo death in utero	Chapter 542 of 2023
S5910	Hinchey	Requires menstrual products in public colleges and universities - cleans up language removing feminine hygiene products to menstrual in the public school language and requires at SUNY/ CUNY	Reported to Finance
S5913A	Chu	Requires feminine hygiene products to be offered for free in non-public schools	Chapter 662 of 2023
S5991A	Persaud	Permits doulas to be present in the operating room while a cesarean section is being performed	Passed the Senate
S5992A	Persaud	Permits expecting and new mothers' access to their doulas and requires maternal health care facilities provide a directory of available doulas	Passed the Senate
S6082A	Fernandez	Requires the commissioner of health to develop a pamphlet providing information and resources to individuals who have suffered a pregnancy loss or infant loss to be distributed by maternal healthcare providers	Chapter 533 of 2023
S6674	Hoylman-Sigal	Expands coverage requirements for human donor milk	Passed the Senate
S7152	Parker	Enacts the "public university emergency contraception education act"	Passed the Senate



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