



## Annual Report 2025

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  
52<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT**

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

January 6, 2026

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

Dear Senator Stewart-Cousins:

I am pleased to transmit the Annual Report of the Senate's Standing Committee on Women's Issues for the 2025 Legislative Session. As Chair, I am proud to continue to lead our efforts to address important matters under my committee's jurisdiction.

During the 2025 Session, this Committee met four times in Session, reported 18 bills, and provided consent to move an additional three bills through the Rules Committee. The Committee also held a joint hearing with the Senate Standing Committees on Health, Social Services, and Mental Health on the state of maternal health in New York, examining maternal mortality and morbidity rates, in addition to barriers to perinatal care within the State this past year.

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

Sincerely,

Senator Lea Webb  
52nd Senate District



# 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

## NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S ISSUES

**Senator Lea Webb,  
Chairperson**

### **Committee Members**

Senator April N.M. Baskin

Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton

Senator José M. Serrano

Senator Toby Ann Stavisky

Senator Alexis Weik, Ranking Member

Senator Patricia M. Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick

### **Committee Staff**

Diana Hernandez – Legislative Director

Jamie Salm – Senior Policy Advisor

Mia Tucker – Senate Fellow,  
Acting Committee Clerk



## **COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW**

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Women's Issues has legislative oversight responsibilities concerning the rights, 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 2025 Legislative Session, 35 bills were referred to the Committee for review and consideration. Of these bills, 18 were reported from Committee, with an additional three bills discharged through the Senate Standing Committee on Rules. Thirteen bills were passed by the Senate, and four bills passed both houses. The work was conducted through a series of four 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 joint hearing with the Senate Standing Committees on Health, Social Services, and Mental Health on the state of maternal health in New York. The joint hearing examined maternal mortality and morbidity rates and barriers to perinatal care within the State. The Committee also hosted Kelli Owens, the Executive Director of the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV), who provided Committee members with an update on the resources that are available for domestic violence victims through the office.

## **COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS**

The following key bills were acted on by the Committee in 2025:

- S845 (Salazar) – Reported from Committee – This bill prohibits medical providers from performing a drug, alcohol, or cannabis test or screen on a perinatal individual or their newborn unless that person gives prior written and verbal consent, except in emergency situations.
- S1548 (Fernandez) – Chapter 674 – This bill prohibits the sale of any menstrual products which contain harmful added substances as identified by the Department of Health, including lead, mercury, formaldehyde, triclosan, toluene, talc, and propylparabens.
- S1720 (Persaud) – Veto 47 – This bill directs the Department of Health to include information on hormone replacement therapy and its use for the treatment of perimenopause and menopause as part of the Health Care and Wellness Education and Outreach Program.
- S2058 (Webb) – Passed Senate - This bill requires every State University of New York (SUNY) and City University of New York (CUNY) institution offering in-person instruction to have at least one vending machine selling emergency contraception on campus.
- S3866B (Hinchey) – Passed Senate – This bill would require menstrual products to be available for free in all public buildings owned and operated by the Office for General Services.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS, ROUNTABLES & NOMINATIONS**

On February 24, the Women's Issues Committee held a joint hearing with the Senate Standing Committees on Health, Social Services, and Mental Health on the state of maternal health in New York. Participating senators heard testimony from multiple State agencies, medical providers, professional organizations, advocacy groups and individuals on the topics of maternal mortality and morbidity rates and barriers to perinatal care within the state.

During the Committee meeting on May 20, Kelli Owens, the Executive Director of the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV), who provided Committee members with an update on 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.

## TWO HOUSE BILLS

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Significant Act</b>
S07714A	Gonzalez	Directs the department of health to create an informational pamphlet concerning intrauterine devices; requires such informational pamphlet to be available on the department of health's website; requires practitioners to distribute such informational pamphlet to patients seeking contraceptives.	Substituted By A778A - Vetoed Memorandum 33
S01548	Fernandez	Restricts certain substances from being used in menstrual products.	Chaptered 674
S01720	Persaud	Establishes an awareness campaign on the use of hormone replacement therapy in treating the symptoms of perimenopause and menopause.	Vetoed Memorandum 47
S07545	Brouk	Requires the department of health to develop and maternal health care providers to distribute written information about episiotomy to maternity patients.	Vetoed Memorandum 38

## SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

<b>Bill No.</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Significant Action</b>
S00520	Persaud	Ensures ovarian cancer survivors have the right to access screenings for health conditions.	Passed the Senate
S00845	Salazar	Prohibits drug, cannabis or alcohol testing and screening of pregnant or postpartum individuals and newborns unless the individual consents and it is within the scope of medical care, or the testing or screening is necessary for a medical emergency.	Senate Rules
S01305A	Salazar	Requires that general hospitals that provide mastectomy surgery, lymph node dissection or lumpectomy provide information to such patients concerning options for breast reconstruction.	Passed the Senate
S02058	Webb	Requires each institution within the state university of New York and the city university of New York offering in-person student instruction to have at least one vending machine making emergency contraception available for purchase.	Passed the Senate
S03193	Persaud	Directs the department of health to create an informational pamphlet regarding the laparoscopic power morcellation surgery technique.	Passed the Senate
S03575	Cleare	Establishes a uterine fibroids awareness and education program on the symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of uterine fibroids and the elevated risk for minority women.	Passed the Senate
S03576	Cleare	Establishes the statewide fibroid study program to study fibroids, the treatment of fibroids, potential barriers to the access of treatment for fibroids, and differences in symptoms and access to treatment for women of color.	Reported to Senate Finance
S03866B	Hinchey	Provides access to menstrual products in toilet facilities in public buildings owned by the state that are determined to be opened to the public; requires reporting.	On Calendar 1003 Opposite House
S04692	Cleare	Requires that free menstrual products be provided in the commonly used bathrooms of private universities.	Reported to Senate Finance
S05665	Cleare	Directs the department of health to conduct an ongoing public awareness and education program on doulas and how beneficial they are to pregnancies.	Reported to Senate Finance

<b>Bill No.</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Significant Action</b>
S06227	Martinez	Provides that the commissioner of education may promulgate rules and regulations for a health education curriculum to include menstrual disorders, including but not limited to, endometriosis.	Passed the Senate
S06232	Webb	Authorizes a prenatal and postpartum informational mobile application for individuals who are eligible for Medicaid.	Passed the Senate
S06494	Cleare	Requires health insurance policies to include coverage for doula services as required coverage for maternity care.	Senate Rules
S06499	Cleare	Provides for coverage of primary and preventative obstetric and gynecological care.	Reported to Senate Insurance
S07048	Webb	Requires the commissioner of health to promulgate regulations requiring that the addition of, decertification of, or changes in the method of delivery of perinatal services by a general hospital be subject to an application under article 28 of the public health law that requires review and approval by the council.	Passed the Senate
S07714A	Gonzalez	Directs the department of health to create an informational pamphlet concerning intrauterine devices; requires such informational pamphlet to be available on the department of health's website; requires practitioners to distribute such informational pamphlet to patients seeking contraceptives.	Substituted By A778A - Vetoed Memorandum 33
S07731	Webb	Requires insurance coverage of a hospitalized birthing parent's interhospital transport to accompany such birthing parent's newborn infant experiencing a condition necessitating transport.	Passed the Senate









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