



## **Georgia Women for a Change, Inc.**

**Advancing progressive public policy that positively impacts the lives of women and girls.**

### **2012 Legislative Agenda**

#### **Create Economic Security, Independence and Opportunity for Women and Girls**

The current economic crisis has disproportionately affected women. We will work to promote policies that help women help themselves including:

- Support HB 432 The Family Care Act, a bill to provide for flexible sick leave that will allow for families to better balance work and family responsibilities
- Advocate for best practices that help low-income families leave poverty and become fully employed by providing education and training, increasing access to childcare subsidies, increasing wages, and supporting Temporary Assistance for Needy Families policies that lead to self-sufficiency.
- Advocate for older women who are economically, physically and socially vulnerable as they age due to diminished resources and promote appropriate opportunities for independent living.
- Monitor any proposed changes to child custody, child support and divorce law.

#### **End Violence Against Women and Girls**

Physical, sexual, and psychological violence against women and girls serves to keep them powerless and deprives them of basic human rights. Key legislative priorities include:

- Ensure adequate funding for critical violence prevention services, shelters and rape crisis centers.
- Support HB 656 to provide that communications between domestic violence or sexual assault counselors and victims are confidential so that such information cannot be used against the client in court.
- Explore different ways the state can review cases and possibly provide post-conviction relief for women who have been incarcerated where a history of domestic violence was not raised as a mitigating factor in her sentencing.
- We will continue to protect and support those who have been victimized by commercial sexual exploitation by advocating for a study committee to design a complete and comprehensive system of care for victims. We will explore the possibility of "johns schools" to be used as a pre-trial diversionary program for men who have exploited a woman in the sex trade where fees would be used to support programs for victims.



### Advocate for Transparent, Responsible, and Balanced Revenue and Spending Policies

Economic security for women and their families depends on the state promulgating balanced revenue policies without compromising fundamental services for those who need support. Key legislative priorities include:

- Support adequate funding for health and social services to address the needs of Georgia's women and girls (especially low-income people, seniors, children and people with disabilities) in the FY 2012 Supplemental Budget and FY 2013 Budget (e.g., family planning, pre-natal care, public health services, school nurses, community-based services for seniors and people with disabilities, education and training to help people leave poverty, etc.).
- Support a balanced strategy of cutting spending and increasing revenue

### Safeguard and Improve Access to Health Care for Women and Girls

We support health care that is affordable and accessible for all and includes all reproductive choices for all women. Key legislative priorities include:

- Re-instating insurance coverage mandates for mammograms, pap smears, and birth control.
- Defending against restrictions on abortion, family planning, and comprehensive sexuality education.
- Defending Georgians' rights to every benefit offered by the federal health care reform bill.
- Supporting child-only insurance policies

Stephanie Davis, Executive Director, Georgia Women for a Change, P. O. Box 55553, Atlanta, GA 30309

404.875.8184 [stephanie@gwomen.org](mailto:stephanie@gwomen.org)