



## LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

Thanks for following along with us during the 2020 Budget Session!

The Wyoming Legislature convened for 24 days this year. Lawmakers introduced 398 bills, a record for a Budget Session. They passed 167 into law.

We will keep you informed of legislative activity in the interim related to women's economic self-sufficiency.



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## HOUSE BILLS RECAP

### **HB0049 - Retirement Savings Information - Workforce Services**

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Wilson, Brown, Furphy, Kinner and Schwartz and Senator(s) Case, Nethercott and Von Flatern

AN ACT relating to the department of workforce services; requiring the department to promote retirements savings as specified; and providing for an effective date.

**WHY IT MATTERS:** Women comprise the majority of Wyoming's citizens over the age of 70. Yet, on average, men have three times as many resources available for retirement as women making women more likely to age into poverty.

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Passed introduction. But then it moved slowly through committee, just sneaking in under a procedural deadline before, ultimately, failing at another procedural deadline.

### **HB0075 - Medicaid Expansion**

Sponsored by: Joint Revenue Interim Committee

AN ACT relating to medicaid; requiring collaboration concerning the expansion of medicaid eligibility; authorizing the expansion of medicaid eligibility as specified; requiring reports and notice as specified; providing a sunset provision; and providing for an effective date.

### **HJ0007 - Medicaid Coverage**

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Sweeney, Brown, Clifford, Connolly, Furphy, Henderson, Yin and Zwonitzer

A JOINT RESOLUTION to expand Medicaid coverage to eligible low income adults.

**WHY IT MATTERS:** Healthcare is a key to economic self-sufficiency. Women in Wyoming are more likely to be working in jobs that don't offer health insurance for wages that preclude them being able to purchase it. New moms fare better in states that have expanded Medicaid, get better postpartum care, have decreased mortality and morbidity, and healthier infants.

**WHAT HAPPENED: Both bills failed introduction: 20-39-1 and 16-40-4, respectively**  
**Note: there were also two proposed budget amendments to include Medicaid Expansion; both failed**

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### **HB0123 - Pharmacists Prescribing Contraceptives**

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Yin, Dayton and Sweeney and Senator(s) Anselmi-Dalton and Schuler

AN ACT relating to professions and occupations; providing for prescription and administration of contraceptives by pharmacists; defining terms; providing for rulemaking; and providing for effective dates.

**WHY IT MATTERS: For women in the most rural parts of our state who have limited access to doctors, it would have improved their access to care. Both doctors and pharmacists agree that this would be beneficial for women across Wyoming.**

**WHAT HAPPENED: Received a majority of votes but failed to reach the 2/3 threshold.**

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### **HB0144 - Minimum Wage**

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Yin and Senator(s) Gierau

AN ACT relating to labor and employment; increasing the minimum hourly wage as specified; establishing a state minimum hourly wage; authorizing boards of county commissioners to establish a higher local minimum hourly wage; repealing the minimum hourly wage exception for youth; and providing for an effective date.

**WHY IT MATTERS: According to the newly released [Self-Sufficiency Standard for Wyoming 2020](#), there is no Wyoming county where either state minimum wage (\$5.15) or Federal minimum wage (\$7.25) can enable a woman to achieve self-sufficiency. Currently, 75% percent of Wyoming's minimum wage workers in Wyoming are women.**

**WHAT HAPPENED: Not considered for introduction.**

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### **HB0188 - Wage Transparency**

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Connolly, Hallinan, Sweeney and Wilson and Senator(s) Ellis, Pappas, Rothfuss and Von Flatern

AN ACT relating to labor and employment; specifying employer actions which constitute an unfair employment practice; prohibiting an employer from barring an employee from disclosing wage information; prohibiting an employer from requiring an employee to waive wage disclosure rights; prohibiting an employer from discriminating against an employee as specified; and providing for an effective date.

**WHY IT MATTERS: Wage transparency has proven benefits for both employers and employees, but it is especially important for women. Opening discussion of salaries among peers and co-workers, experts say, is a powerful tool to fight pay inequity.**

**WHAT HAPPENED: Failed introduction in the House by a single vote 39-17-3.**

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## SENATE FILES RECAP

### **SF0054 - Surplus Food Programs**

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Wasserburger

AN ACT relating to school districts; authorizing surplus food programs in schools; authorizing donation of surplus school food to a nonprofit entity; and providing for an effective date.

**WHY IT MATTERS:** Would aid those facing food insecurity. Single moms with pre-school age children are the most likely to face food insecurity.

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Passed both chambers before failing at a final procedural deadline.

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## **SF0086 - Essential Health Product Dignity Act**

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Ellis and Biteman and Representative(s) Brown, Burlingame, Flitner, Olsen, Salazar and Simpson

AN ACT relating to sales and use taxes; establishing a tax exemption for feminine hygiene products and diapers; and providing for an effective date.

**WHY IT MATTERS:** The [fiscal note](#) demonstrated that women can expect to pay approximately \$900,000 in taxes in 2020 on period products.

**WHAT HAPPENED:** The bill received 17 aye votes and 13 no votes in the Senate—but the threshold in a budget session in the Senate is 20 votes—so it failed introduction in spite of majority support.

# AMENDMENTS RECAP

## **Childcare amendment to SF0002 Legislative budget**

The [childcare amendment](#) on SF0002 (affectionately known as "The Feed Bill") provided an optional reimbursement (Maximum of \$500 per quarter per person) to Legislators with children under for childcare expenses while doing the People's Business.

**WHY IT MATTERS:** In all, there are seven parents of young children out of 90 Legislators. Five of those households are headed by male Legislators, two by female Legislators. Childcare is most often seen as a policy that benefits "moms" and "women" even though research proves it is also a game-changer for dads, kids, and employers. The US Chamber of Commerce issued a report describing childcare's value as "a powerful two-generation approach to building the human capital that a prosperous and sustainable America requires."

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Failed. Amendment was met with powerful pushback from male legislators without young children. Strong support from all the parents in the body.

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## **HB0002 Government reports**

The engrossed version ([read here](#)) includes an annual report to the Minerals and Economic Development Committee from the [Wyoming Council for Women](#) on the status of women in Wyoming.

**WHY IT MATTERS:** Because so few policies and bills even discussed women in Wyoming and even fewer of those advanced, adding a statutory requirement for the Wyoming Council for Women to provide the Joint Minerals, Business & Economic Development Committee with an update on women in Wyoming might be the only voice women get in the interim.

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Passed!

Thanks for following along with us during the 2020 Budget Session!

Huge thank you to everyone who used this information to get to know

the issues and reach out to your legislators on bills that matter to you!

## Please continue to use your voice to influence positive change for women & girls in Wyoming!

### Legislative Resources:

- [How to contact your Representative](#)
- [How to contact your Senator](#)
- [Online Hotline](#)
- [Attending Legislative Sessions](#)
- [How to Read A Bill](#)
- [Capitol Complex Map](#)
- [Glossary of Words and Terms](#)

Forward to a friend and have them click below to join our Power Advocates!

Click here to be a power-  
advocate for women & girls in  
Wyoming!

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### About the Wyoming Women's Foundation

The Wyoming Women's Foundation is a priority fund of the [Wyoming Community Foundation](#), which granted out over \$8 million to nonprofits across the state in 2018, and over \$75 million since its inception in 1989. The Women's Foundation builds on a permanent endowment that will ensure funding to enhance the lives of women and girls in Wyoming for generations to come. It makes grants to organizations that help Wyoming women and girls attain economic self-sufficiency, creates statewide awareness of the barriers to economic self-sufficiency, and supports systems change to eliminate those barriers. Learn more at [wywf.org](#).

To learn more about WYWF visit us at [WYWF.org](#), on Facebook [@WYWomensFoundation](#) or on Instagram [@WyoWomen](#).

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