



Good morning,

The 2020 Budget Session of the Wyoming Legislature starts TODAY!

We want to help you be informed and engaged this legislative session.

The [Wyoming Women's Foundation](#) is providing you with information on legislation relating to economic self-sufficiency for women and opportunities for girls. Please use this information to get to know the issues and reach out to your legislators on bills that matter to you.

Tune in today at 10 am for Governor Gordon's State of the State address followed by the State of the Judiciary message, delivered by Wyoming Supreme Court Chief Justice Michael K. Davis. The link to the live feed can be found on the [Legislative Services website](#) by clicking on "[Listen to Live & Archived Audio Floor Debate](#)".

Everything you need to know about attending a legislative session can be found in the [Citizen Guide to the Legislature](#) and information on [how to contact your legislators can be found here!](#)

Other resources to check out:

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

**2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FEBRUARY 10TH - MARCH 12TH
WYOMING STATE CAPITOL BUILDING**



Photo credit <https://wyoleg.gov/>

Is this work important to you?

Give Today!

- ACTION ALERT! -

HB0075 - Medicaid Expansion - Authorization

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.

Latest Action: H Received for Introduction

Medicaid Expansion is on the consent list for this afternoon at 2:00 pm, so if you would like to contact your legislator, now is the best time to do it!

ACTION NEEDED

To help women's economic self-sufficiency in Wyoming, find and contact your representative to ask them to vote YES on HB75 before 2:00 pm today.

How HB75 impacts women and girls:

If HB75 passes, then working women will be the predominant beneficiaries of new access to affordable healthcare.

*"The rate of Wyoming women working in low- and minimum-wage jobs is almost three times that of Wyoming men. Which is why the Wyoming Department of Health estimates that women between the ages of 18 and 29 who work full-time would be nearly **three times** as likely as their male counterparts to enroll in an expanded Medicaid program."*¹

If HB75 passes, then low-income mothers and their babies will be healthier.

*"[S]tates that expand Medicaid improve the health of women of childbearing age: increasing access to preventive care, reducing adverse health outcomes before, during and after pregnancies, and reducing maternal mortality rates," according to the Georgetown University Health Policy Institute's Center on Children and Families. "Better health for women of childbearing age also means better health for their infants. States that have expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act saw a 50 percent greater reduction in infant mortality than non-expansion states."*²

Health is a key factor in getting and keeping a job. When women and their families can stay healthy--thanks to access to health insurance and quality, affordable health care--they can achieve economic self-sufficiency.

Additional resources on HB75: For more information on Medicaid Expansion and HB75, check out Healthy Wyoming on Facebook.

¹ Simon, J. (2020), 'Medicaid expansion is right for Wyoming, women,' *Jackson Hole News & Guide*, 5 February. Available at https://www.jhnewsandguide.com/opinion/columnists/equity_state/medicaid-expansion-is-right-for-wyoming-women/article_c25c3037-5646-509b-ad31-9d473805a8c6.html#comments. Accessed 9 February 2020.

² Healthy Wyoming. (February 4, 2020). *Research Results: Medicaid Expansion Helps New Moms* [Press release]. Retrieved from <https://www.facebook.com/HealthyWyo/posts/2208161152820357?tn=K-R>

HOUSE BILLS

[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.

Latest Action: H Received for Introduction

[HB104 - Public Assistance Program](#)

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Connolly, Brown, Flitner, Freeman and Paxton and Senator(s) Rothfuss, Schuler and Wasserburger

AN ACT relating to public assistance and social services; amending program governance and restrictions; requiring rulemaking; and providing for effective dates.

Latest Action: H Received for Introduction [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.

Latest Action: Bill Number Assigned

SENATE FILES

[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.

Latest Action: Bill Number Assigned

[SF0086 - Essential Health Product Dignity Act](#)

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

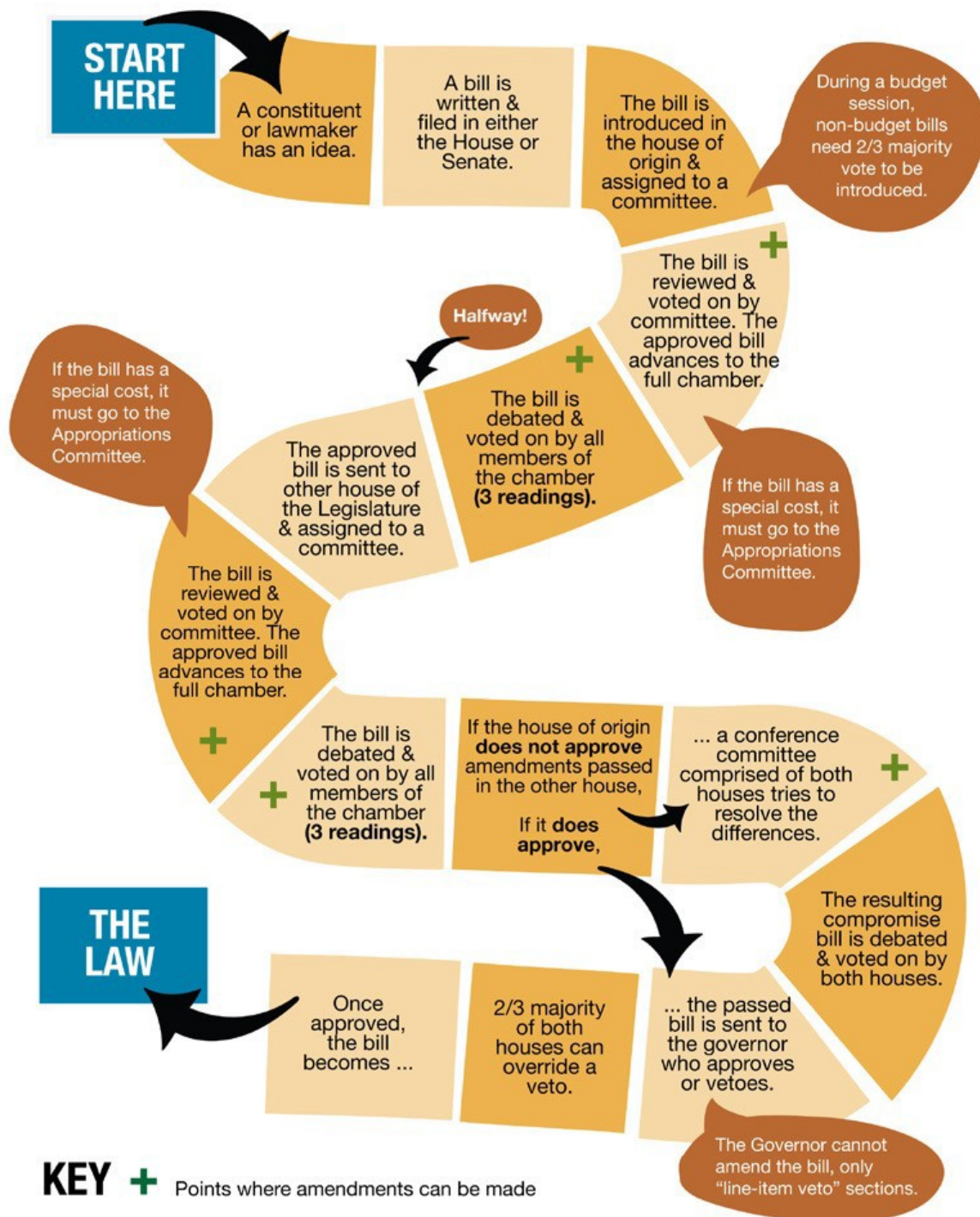
AN ACT relating to sales and use taxes; establishing a tax exemption for feminine hygiene products and diapers; and providing for an effective date.

Latest Action: Bill Number Assigned

Would you like more frequent emails about when to make your voice heard in the legislature about women's economic self-sufficiency? Click here to be a power-advocate for women in Wyoming!

**Yes, I want to know when to speak
up for Wyoming women & girls!**

HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW



"How a bill becomes a law" courtesy of the Wyoming Outdoor Council.

About the Wyoming Women's Foundation

The Wyoming Women's Foundation is a priority fund of the [Wyoming Community Foundation](http://www.wycommunityfoundation.org), 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 www.wywf.org.

To learn more about WYWF visit us at WYWF.org, on Facebook [@WYWomensFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/WYWomensFoundation) or on Instagram [@WyoWomen](https://www.instagram.com/WyoWomen).



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE ALERT!

Tune in to [WYWF's Facebook Live Video](#) at 11:30 am for a live update from the Capitol on legislation impacting self-sufficiency for women and girls and find out how you can help!

We want to help you be informed and engaged this legislative session.

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- [Online Hotline](#)
- [Glossary of Words and Terms](#)
- [How to contact your Senator](#)
- [How to contact your Representative](#)

Legislative Update Alert!

*Tune in TODAY at 11:30 am
for a live update from the Capitol!*



Is this work important to you?

Give Today!

HOUSE BILLS

[HJ0007 - Medicaid Coverage-Eligible Low Income Adults](#)

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.

Latest Action: **H Received for Introduction**

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.

Latest Action: **H Introduced and Referred to H10 - Labor 59-0-1-0-0**

HB0075 - Medicaid Expansion - Authorization

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.

Latest Action: **H Failed Introduction 20-39-1-0-0**

HB0104 - Public Assistance Program

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Connolly, Brown, Flitner, Freeman and Paxton and Senator(s) Rothfuss, Schuler and Wasserburger

AN ACT relating to public assistance and social services; amending program governance and restrictions; requiring rulemaking; and providing for effective dates.

Latest Action: **H Failed Introduction 39-19-2-0-0**

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.

Latest Action: **H Received for Introduction**

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.

Latest Action: **H Received for Introduction**

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.

Latest Action: **H Received for Introduction**

SENATE FILES

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.

Latest Action: **S Introduced and Referred to S05 - Agriculture 29-0-1-0-0**

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.

Latest Action: **S Failed Introduction 18-11-1-0-0**

Would you like more frequent emails about when to make your voice heard in the legislature about women's economic self-sufficiency?

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

**Yes, I want to know when to
speak up for Wyoming
women & girls!**



THE WAIT IS OVER!

The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Wyoming 2020 Press Conference



TOMORROW TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH FROM 9:30 - 10:30 AM
AT THE WY STATE CAPITOL BUILDING IN CHEYENNE, WY



**Tune in to [WYWF's Facebook live video](#)
TOMORROW at 9:30 am as we live-stream
The Self-Sufficiency Standard Press Conference
from the WY State Capitol Rotunda!!!**

We want to help YOU be informed and engaged this legislative session.

The [Wyoming Women's Foundation](#) is providing you with information on legislation relating to economic self-sufficiency for women and opportunities for girls.

Last week moved fast and unfortunately a lot of bills that address women's economic self - sufficiency died. However, at least two are moving on, [SF0054](#) and [HB0049](#). We will continue to update you on their progress.

Thank you so much for your efforts to move important bills forward!

See below for which legislators to thank for championing economic self - sufficiency for Wyoming women.

Legislative Resources:

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

Is this work important to you?

Give Today!

SENATE FILES

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.

Latest Action: **S Introduced and Referred to S05 - Agriculture 29-0-1-0-0**

HOUSE BILLS

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.

Latest Action: **H Introduced and Referred to H10 - Labor 59-0-1-0-0**

HJ0007 - Medicaid Coverage-Eligible Low Income Adults

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.

Latest Action: **H Failed Introduction 16-40-4-0-0**

Want to thank your legislators for their work and leadership? Please thank Reps. Sweeney, Brown, Furphy, Henderson, and Zwonitzer for standing up for low-income working women in Wyoming.

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.

Latest Action: **Never introduced**

Want to thank your legislators for their work and leadership? Please thank Rep. Yin for his work on this essential issue, given that 75% of Wyoming's minimum wage workers are women.

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.

Latest Action: **H Failed Introduction 16-40-4-0-0**

Want to thank your legislators for their work and leadership? Please thank Reps. Connolly, Hallinan, Sweeney and Wilson and Senators Ellis, Pappas, Rothfuss and Von Flatern for championing women's economic self-sufficiency.

Would you like more frequent emails about when to make your voice heard in the legislature about women's economic self-sufficiency?

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

**Yes, I want to know when to
speak up for Wyoming
women & girls!**



Many bills that would have advanced women's economic self-sufficiency in Wyoming did not advance, but there are still a couple bills to reach out to your legislator about and we have a few things to celebrate!



Trish Worley, Tara Muir, Jennifer Wilmetti, Megan Degenfelder, Bekah Smith, Alex Shannon and Jennifer Simon pose for a photo in the rotunda of the Wyoming State Capitol Building.

Photo by Wyoming Community Foundation

- Throughout the week, WYWF met with several other organizations that are interested in partnering with us to advance economic self-sufficiency throughout the state, including [Wyoming Council for Women](#), [Wyoming 2-1-1](#), [Climb Wyoming](#), and [Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault](#).
- Tuesday, [The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Wyoming 2020](#) was released! Governor Gordon was in attendance and the standard was distributed to Wyoming Legislators in both the House and Senate. Rep. Connolly spoke at the release and we met with the Wyoming Council for Women, our partners on the release.
- The Wall Street Journal was there as was Channel 5 News in Cheyenne, Wyoming Public Radio, the Wyoming Tribune Eagle and the Casper Star Tribune. Keep an eye out on our [facebook](#) page for those videos and articles!
- While attending events in Cheyenne, WYWF met multiple women planning to run for office in Wyoming!
- At [Leap into Leadership](#), WYWF witnessed Affie Ellis receive the [P.E.A.C.E. Award](#) for her work on [SF0072](#), an act that drastically improves the sexual assault evidence reporting process.
- WYWF also listened to [Astronaut Abby](#) encourage women and girls on their leadership journey!

Please contact Alex@wycf.org if you would like to partner with us as well!

The [Wyoming Women's Foundation](#) is happy to continue to provide you with information on legislation relating to economic self-sufficiency for women and opportunities for girls.

See below for the bills we are still following.

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Is this work important to you?

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SENATE FILES

[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.

Latest Action: **S Introduced and Referred to S05 - Agriculture 29-0-1-0-0**

ACTION ALERT: Encourage your Senator to vote yes!

HOUSE BILLS

MEDICAID EXPANSION - Another try! Remember, working women would be big beneficiaries of medicaid expansion.

[HB001 - The Budget](#)

Sponsored by: Joint Appropriations Committee

Latest Action: **2/19/2020 H 2nd Reading:Passed**

ACTION ALERT: Medicaid Expansion has been added as a 3rd reading budget amendment. HOW YOU CAN HELP: Reach out right now and tell your Reps to say yes to Medicaid Expansion on 3rd reading of the budget.

[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 are we following this bill?

Any bills related to retirement disproportionately impact women because women live longer and tend to save less for retirement due to earning lower wages throughout their lives.

Latest Action: **S Placed on General File**

ACTION ALERT: this bill has not been scheduled for a committee hearing. Any bills not moved through committee by the end of the day on Monday 2/25 will die a procedural death. Reach out to Rep. Sue Wilson, chair of House Labor and the bill's sponsor, and ask her to hear the bill on Monday.

HB0247 - Child Support Forgiveness

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Loucks and Senator(s) Nethercott

AN ACT relating to domestic relations; providing for parties to agree to settle past child support obligations as specified; and providing for an effective date.

Latest Action: **Failed to get a second to pass out of Judiciary committee.**

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Medicaid Expansion 3rd reading budget amendment failed on Friday night, but more and more people are speaking out in favor of the program. There were two pro-MedEx letters in yesterday's Casper Star Tribune, [here](#) and [here](#). We'd encourage people to continue to tell their personal stories on the [HealthyWyo facebook page](#) as well as in letters to the editor and especially to their Senators and Representatives. Call. Text. Email. This is an important issue for everyone in our state, and we need more voices saying yes!

The Senate has scheduled zero committee meetings for today so anyone who was waiting for the Senate to move a bill before the procedural deadline has their answer: That bill is officially dead. Want to know more about this week's procedural deadlines and what they mean for bills? [The calendar for the session is here](#) . Everything must crossover on or before Thursday.

The House Labor Committee plans to hear the [Retirement bill](#) later today, upon adjournment. Encourage yes votes on the bill! [Here are the members of that committee](#) . Outreach only needs to go to the House Members because it is a House Committee that will hear it today:

[Chairman Sue Wilson](#)

[Rep. Eric Barlow](#)

[Rep. Scott Clem](#)

[Rep. JoAnn Dayton-Selman](#)

[Rep. Tim Hallinan](#)

[Rep. Jim Roscoe](#)

[Rep. Clarence Styvar](#)

[Rep. Pat Sweeney](#)

[Rep. Mike Yin](#)

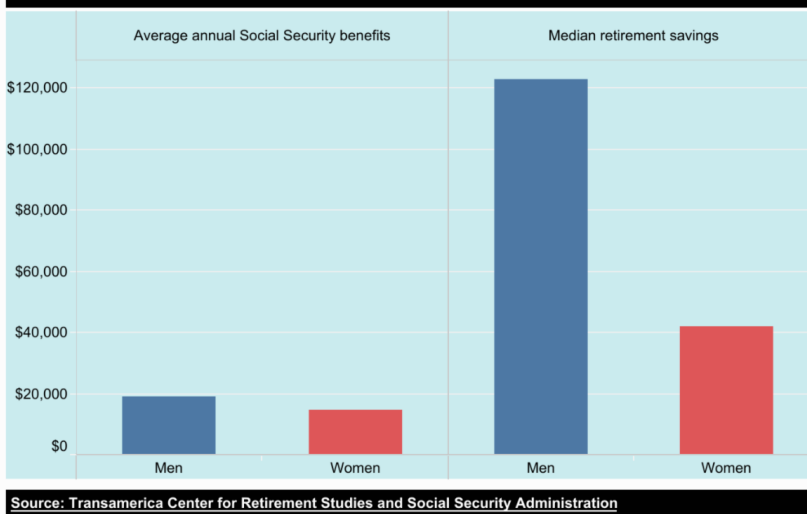
Again, this bill is quite straightforward and simply says that Department of Workforce Services will, among other efforts to promote their mission also:

(viii) Promote and provide information about current and potential retirement savings opportunities and strategies available to employers, employees and workers in the state.

This is especially important to women. Due to the gender wage gap, unpaid caregiving responsibilities, and career interruptions, women generally have fewer assets at retirement and are more likely than men to age into poverty.

U.S. men have three times more than women in retirement savings

Median household retirement savings and average Social Security benefits, 2017



Sen. Wasserburger's [Surplus food programs bill](#) passed Committee of the Whole in the Senate on Friday and will be on second reading today.

The [Wyoming Women's Foundation](#) is happy to continue to provide you with information on legislation relating to economic self-sufficiency for women and opportunities for girls. Thanks for following along and making your voices heard this session!

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The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Wyoming 2020 can be seen clearly on the desks of multiple Wyoming Representatives! Reports were distributed to every member of the Wyoming House and Senate.

SENATE FILES

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.

Latest Action: **2/21/2020 S Committee of the Whole:Passed**

ACTION ALERT: Encourage your Senator to vote yes on 2nd reading this morning!

HOUSE BILLS

It's been scheduled for committee meeting!

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 are we following this bill?

Any bills related to retirement disproportionately impact women because women live longer and tend to save less for retirement due to earning lower wages throughout their lives.

Latest Action: **H Introduced and Referred to H10 - Labor 59-0-1-0-0**

ACTION ALERT: this bill is scheduled for a committee hearing today. Ask the House Labor Committee members below to vote yes!

Chairman Sue Wilson

Rep. Eric Barlow

Rep. Scott Clem

Rep. JoAnn Dayton-Selman

Rep. Tim Hallinan

Rep. Jim Roscoe

Rep. Clarence Styvar

Rep. Pat Sweeney

Rep. Mike Yin

HB001 - The Budget - MedEx Amendment

Sponsored by: Joint Appropriations Committee

Latest Action: 2/21/2020 H 3rd Reading: Passed 48-12-0-0-0 - the bill passed, but the Medicaid Expansion that was added as a3rd reading budget amendment failed on Friday.



A very exciting Amendment to the [General Government Reports bill, HB002](#), was added last night by Reps. Greear and Connolly that would require the Wyoming Council for Women to submit a report on the status of women in Wyoming in the coming year. The Wyoming Council for Women really wants to do this and it would open the door for the legislature to take a hard look at factors impacting women's economic self-sufficiency in Wyoming.

ACTION ALERT!!

Power advocates, we need you to reach out in the next half hour, by about 8 am. It is the first bill up for second reading at 8 am.

Ask your Rep. to vote YES on the 2nd reading amendment on HB0002 General Government Reporting that would require a report on the status of women as economic drivers.

This Amendment was brought by Minerals & Economic Development Chairman Greear and Rep. Connolly.

[The text of the bill can be found here.](#)

[The text of the amendment can be found here.](#) It states:

3. **"Section 13.** [Wyoming Business Council-Wyoming Council for Women's Issues]. Not later than October 1, 2020, the Wyoming council for women's issues created within the Wyoming business council under W.S.9-12-501 and 9-12-502 shall report to the joint minerals, business and economic development interim committee on its statutory obligations regarding the status of women in Wyoming. The report shall include any efforts addressing economic development, data collection and partnerships with business technology organizations.".

[You can listen to the floor debate in the House here.](#)

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!

Legislative Resources:

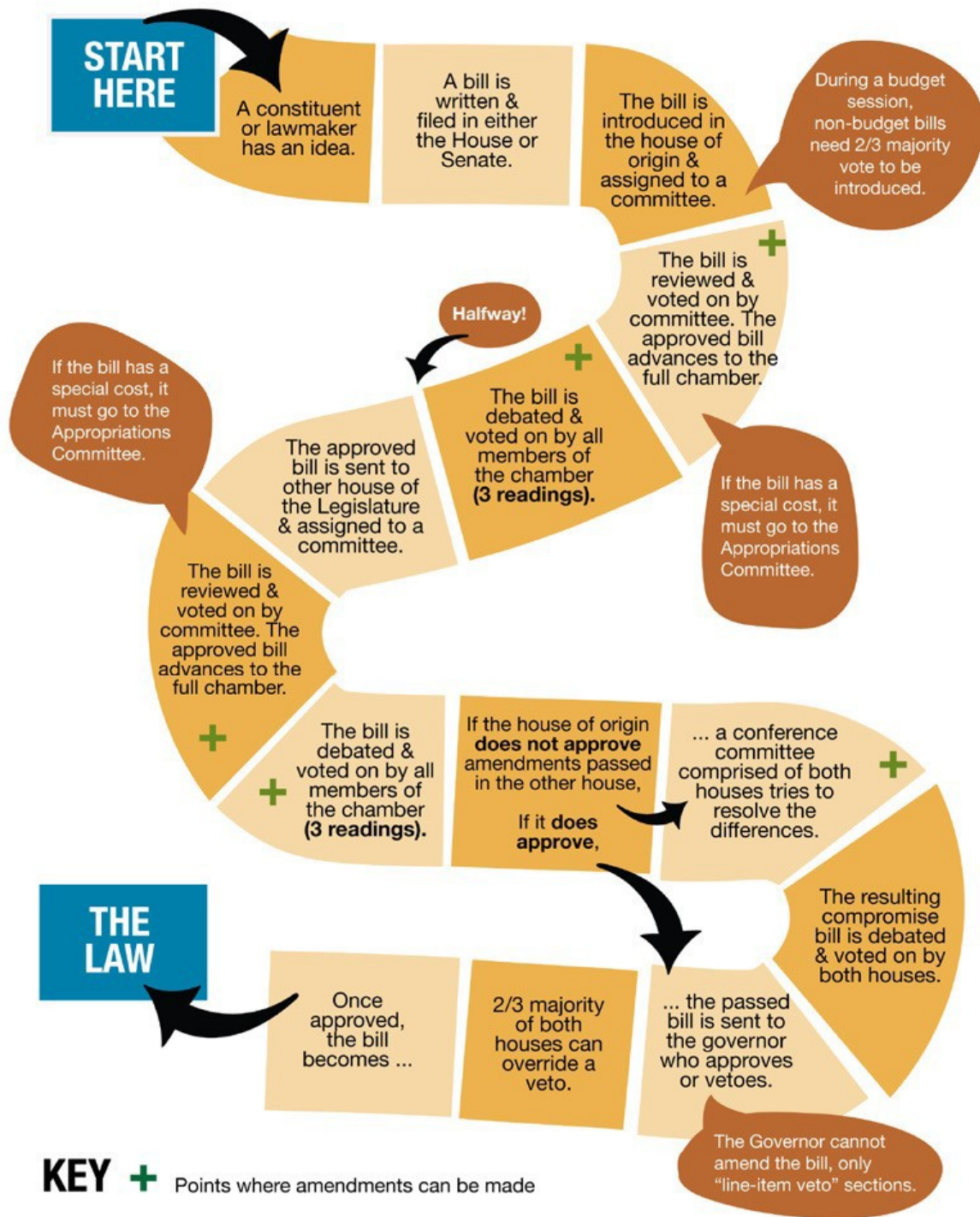
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- [How to contact your Senator](#)
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- [How to Read A Bill](#)
- [Capitol Complex Map](#)



- [Glossary of Words and Terms](#)

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HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW



"How a bill becomes a law" courtesy of the Wyoming Outdoor Council.



Thank you for contacting your representatives!

LEGISLATIVE WIN!

HB0002 General Government Reporting passed the 2nd reading with the amendment to require reporting from the Wyoming Council for Women intact!

The bill must pass the 3rd reading by tomorrow, February 27. We will let you know if the amendment needs more action.

[The text of the amendment can be found here.](#)

It states:

3. **"Section 13.** [Wyoming Business Council-Wyoming Council for Women's Issues]. Not later than October 1, 2020, the Wyoming council for women's issues created within the Wyoming business council under W.S.9-12-501 and 9-12-502 shall report to the joint minerals, business and economic development interim committee on its statutory obligations regarding the status of women in Wyoming. The report shall include any efforts addressing economic development, data collection and partnerships with business technology organizations."

Legislative Resources:

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

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Rules Committee passed a standing amendment to [SF0002 Legislative budget](#) that would offer [a childcare reimbursement for legislators](#), increasing opportunities for working parents with young children to run for office!

ACTION ALERT!!

Please contact your Representative and tell them to vote YES on [SF0002 Standing Committee Amendment #1](#).

Info on [how to contact your legislators can be found here](#) !

- [How to contact your Representative](#)
- [How to contact your Senator](#)
- [Online Hotline](#)

[The text of the bill can be found here.](#)

[The text of the amendment can be found here.](#)

It states: "Section 14. [Legislator Childcare Expenses]. At the direction of Management Council, funds appropriated in this act may be expended to reimburse members of the legislature for additional childcare expenses incurred by the member for the care of the member's dependent minor children under the age of twelve (12) as a result of the member attending sessions of the legislature, attending meetings of interim committees and engaging in authorized interim work. Members of the legislature shall provide receipts to the legislative service office for reimbursable childcare expenses incurred pursuant to this section and Management Council policy. No reimbursable expense to any one (1) member under this section shall exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00) in any calendar quarter."

Why this matters:

Childcare reimbursements can address structural barriers for legislators with young families.

The [Self-Sufficiency Standard](#) has a focus on modern families with working adults, because paid employment is the norm for supporting families today in the United States. As a result, the Standard assumes all adults work to support their families, and thus includes the costs of work-related expenses such as child care (when needed), taxes, and transportation.

HOUSE BILLS

Week 3 is always an interesting time in a budget session because we start getting to [procedural deadlines](#). Bills that didn't clear committee Monday, Committee of the Whole Tuesday, 2nd reading Wednesday, or 3rd reading Thursday--those bills died a procedural death.

[HB0049 Retirement savings information - workforce services](#) failed on a procedural basis. They didn't move it through the Committee of the Whole in time. We were sorry this bill didn't make the cut--especially since they debated bills until 10:49pm on the final night.

SENATE FILES

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.

Latest Action: **H Introduced and Referred to H04 - Education**

SF0054 Food surplus programs continued its positive trajectory, cleared the Senate, and crossed over to the House, right on schedule. It has been referred to [House Education](#) and will be heard 03/02/20 at the end of the day.

ACTION ALERT: Call the Reps on House Education Committee and let them know you'd like to see this bill continue!

[Chairman Northrup](#)

[Rep Brown](#)

[Rep Connolly](#)

[Rep Flitner](#)

[Rep Freeman](#)

[Rep Obermueller](#)

[Rep Paxton](#)

[Rep Piiparinen](#)

[Rep Simpson](#)

Legislative Resources:

- [Attending Legislative Sessions](#)
- [How to Read A Bill](#)
- [Capitol Complex Map](#)
- [Glossary of Words and Terms](#)

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Is this work important to you?

Give Today!

About the Wyoming Women's Foundation

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



ACTION ALERTS!

SF0002 Legislative budget

SF002 will be on General File in the House tomorrow. The [Standing Committee Amendment #1 would add a childcare reimbursement for Legislators with children under 12](#). This represents a positive shift that will help break down barriers and make the Legislature more accessible to more diverse types of candidates.

ACTION NEEDED: Please reach out to your Representative and ask for a YES vote on Standing Committee Amendment #1 and YES on SF0002!

SF0054 Surplus food programs

SF0054 will also be on General File in the House tomorrow. As we've said before, food insecurity has an outsize impact on single moms with preschool age kids--and any programs that might provide access to resources is important.

ACTION NEEDED: Please encourage a YES vote on SF0054 to your Representative!

Info on [how to contact your legislators can be found here!](#)

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ACTION ALERTS!!

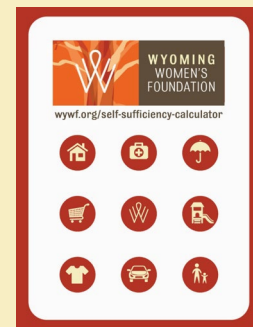
HB0002 Government reports

HB0002 is scheduled for General File in the Senate later today. 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. Your voice was instrumental in getting this important report about women as drivers of Wyoming's economy into the bill.

ACTION: Contact your Senators now! Let's get the bill passed!

Childcare amendment to SF0002 Legislative budget

Yesterday, the [childcare amendment](#) on SF0002 (affectionately known as "The Feed Bill") failed in the House on a close vote. You know from the [2020 Self-Sufficiency Standard](#) how expensive childcare can be. Help make change in the Legislature!



Learn more by reading [Wyoming House kills effort to allow lawmakers to expense childcare costs](#), by Nick Reynolds.

ACTION: Contact your Representatives this morning to tell them that you want the amendment back in the bill!

And please reach out to [The Rules and Procedure Committee](#) , especially [Rep. Connolly](#), to thank them for bringing this important amendment forward!

SF0054 Surplus food programs

SF0054 is on General File in the House today. As we've said before, food insecurity has an outsize impact on single moms with preschool age kids--and any programs that might provide access to resources is

important.

ACTION: Contact your Reps and make sure that they know you support this bill that supports families facing food insecurity!

INTERIM COMMITTEE TOPIC

And, last but not least, [Interim Committee Topics](#) are due at 5 pm tomorrow!

ACTION: Please let your Representatives and Senators know that you want topics discussed in the interim that impact the women of Wyoming. Because what is good for women is good for Wyoming!

Info on [how to contact your legislators can be found here!](#)

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[Wyoming Women's Foundation](#) | 307-721-8300





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.



Photo credit <https://wyoleg.gov/>

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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!

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