



## WYWF's Legislative Recap Meeting Minutes, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ 12-1pm

**Speakers:** Marissa Carpio, Bekah Smith, & Alex Shannon

**WYWF Website:** <https://wywf.org/>

**Contact Information:** Contact Marissa regarding the webinar or advocacy in general at [marissa@wycf.org](mailto:marissa@wycf.org) or (307) 721-8300

### History of Advocacy at WYWF

- The Wyoming Women's Foundation was created in 1999 by the Wyoming Community Foundation to benefit women, girls, and our overall communities.
- Advocacy and lobbying first became necessary for licenses for the Annual Antelope Hunt in 2016-2018.
- With the support of our advisory board, the WYWF has been able to create and implement an advocacy plan in 2019.
- In 2021, that plan was updated to further address legislation and policies that affect women and girls.
- This year, WYWF has added an Advocacy Coordinator to add capacity on advocating efforts.

### Power Advocates

- What are Power Advocates?
  - WYWF Power Advocates are civically engaged individuals passionate about investing in the economic self-sufficiency of women and opportunities for girls.
- What do Power Advocates do?
  - WYWF Power Advocates use the information provided in WYWF's Annual Legislative Watch and Action Alerts to speak out for Wyoming women & girls. Power advocates can call or write to the state's congress. Power Advocates can use their voice by writing a letter to the editor of your local newspaper, and Power Advocates can voice support on social media.
- Why are Power Advocates so important?
  - Citizen's voices MATTER. Talking with your legislators about issues that are important to you can be the most influential thing you could do. In many cases, the best form of action to sway decisionmakers is personal stories backed up with data from the people they care about: their constituents.
- What is EveryAction (Bonterra Tech)?
  - EveryAction is the platform we use for Digital Advocacy. This website helps us create the forms that we use so that Power Advocates and other supporters can make calls, emails, etc. by entering information and clicking a button. Depending on the issue, we program these forms to reach out to all legislators, just a group of legislators, or solely the individual's legislator who is submitting the form. That all depends on the issue and what

we believe will be most effective. We are currently completing trainings in order to best use this technology in the future.

- Our goal is to have dedicated, meaningful participants as our Power Advocates. But we can't have that if we are not providing the Power Advocates with the tools to succeed, we would love to hear feedback at the end of the presentation on how to better engage our advocates.
  - **Sign up to be a Power Advocate here:**
    - <https://wywf.org/power-advocates/>

## The Wyoming Legislature

- It is so important to know who represents you in our state! On the site below, enter your address, and it shows you who your Senators or Representatives are.
  - **Find your legislators here:**
    - [https://openstates.org/find\\_your\\_legislator/](https://openstates.org/find_your_legislator/)
- Brief overview of the Wyoming Legislature:
  - We call the current Legislature, made up of the Wyoming House of Representatives and Senators, the 66<sup>th</sup> Legislature. Every two years, on even years, there is an election that will change the make-up of the Legislature. For example, this year is an election year. In 2023, we will have the 67<sup>th</sup> Legislature.
    - This can get confusing, because some people termed this budget session as the 66<sup>th</sup> legislative session. That is untrue, it is the Legislative Budget Session of the 66<sup>th</sup> Legislature.
  - Currently, the Wyoming House of Representatives is made up of 60 members, called Representatives. And the Senate is made up of 30 members, called Senators.

## Legislative Session

- The Legislature meets in a General Session in odd numbered years and is limited to 40 legislative days.
- In even numbered years, the Legislature convenes in a Budget Session which typically lasts 20 legislative days. This year was a Budget Session! ☺ Except for the budget bill, all other bills require a two-thirds vote from the Senate or House for introduction during a Budget Session. This is to keep legislators focused on the gigantic bill that determines the budget.
  - This year, there was a budget bill because it was a Budget session (SF01/HB01). There was also a redistricting bill because in the state's constitution:
    - “At the first budget session of the legislature following the federal census, the legislature shall reapportion its membership based upon that census. Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, any bill to apportion the legislature may be introduced in a budget session in the same manner as in a general session.”

## Interim Session

- The Interim session is a period of time between legislative sessions where legislators discuss key issues that occurred in the last session, or ones they hope to address in the next session. Joint legislative committees study these issues to come up with solutions that are backed by a long-term effort and study.
- We submitted the topic of Maternal Health Policies to the Labor, Health, and Social Services Committee under the sponsorship of Chairman Baldwin

- After submission, the committee ranks their priorities based on topics that were submitted and committee opinion. They send those preferences to Management Council, who ultimately assigns topics.
- On April 8<sup>th</sup>, Management Council assigned maternal health as a top priority for Labor Committee! Co-chair Wilson named studying the postpartum benefit extension as one of the things the committee was hoping to accomplish. Their first meeting is on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Lander.

### Advocacy in WYWF

- WYWF selects bills to oppose, support, or monitor based on our 2022 Advocacy plan.
- The goals in our advocacy plan do not have to be reached solely with Legislation. Collaboration and communication with other state agencies, community groups, local stakeholders, and non-profit organizations can create programs and policies that meet the goals under our key issues.

### Key Issues in Advocacy Plan

1. Education
2. Representation
3. Healthcare
4. Childcare & Workplace policies

### Breakout Rooms

- Participants broke out in groups to discuss legislation, advocacy efforts, and next steps forward for each key issue. See the next page for a summary of bills for each group.
  - **Group 1: Healthcare** (Alex Shannon) (bills on page 5-7)
    - If you're interested in Medicaid Expansion efforts in our state, join us and Healthy Wyoming: <https://healthywyoming.org/>
      - **The Revenue Committee's Priority #3 is Continuation of 2021 Interim Topics-** The Committee will continue discussions on several topics that were under consideration during the 2021 interim including...Medicaid expansion including consideration of using a provider tax to pay for the ten percent (10%) state share. Details regarding the April 27<sup>th</sup> meeting can be found at <https://wyoleg.gov/Calendar/20220401/Meeting>
    - **The Labor Committee's Priority #1 is Maternal Health.** The Committee will evaluate ways to improve pregnancy outcomes for mothers and babies across the state. **Priority #2 is Behavioral Health.** The Committee will identify gaps in and solutions to crisis care, evaluate a supplemental payment program for psychiatric residential treatment facilities, and review procedures for providing mental health services for juveniles with court-ordered placements. Details regarding the June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting can be found at <https://wyoleg.gov/Calendar/20220401/Meeting>
  - **Group 2: Education** (Bekah Smith) (bills on page 8-10)
    - How to access bills on <https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2022>
      - Each bill is assigned a number. Bills that originate in the House = House Bill or HB. Bills that originate in the Senate = Senate File or SF.

- Task: click through each tab on a specific bill to familiarize yourself with the website, for example:  
<https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2022/HB0029>
- **Group 3: Representation & Workplace Policies** (Marissa Carpio) (bills on page 11-13)
  - Check whether your district has changed here:  
<https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislature/LegislatureAbout>
    - Senate [new map](#)
    - House [new map](#)
    - [Old map](#) (both)

### **Feedback from Groups**

- WYWF should host discussions during the Legislative Session surrounding bills. Sometimes emails do not encompass the nuances.
- Legislative Update emails should include more information on how each bill is pertinent to the mission of the organization. (why it matters for women & girls)
- Legislative Update emails should be shorter/more digestible.
- Additional research is needed to effectively advocate for women & girls.

# Healthcare Legislation

## Supported Legislation

- **HB33: Community health services- continued redesign efforts.**
  - **Sponsored by:** Joint Labor, Health & Social Services Interim Committee
  - **AN ACT** relating to public health and safety; modifying prior legislation that amended provisions related to community health services; modifying definitions; delaying the effective date for the community health services redesign; requiring reports; providing a legislative finding; making conforming amendments.
  - **WHY IT MATTERS FOR WOMEN & GIRLS:** This bill updates criteria related to youth referrals to behavioral health centers to be inclusive of education, healthcare and service providers that surround the youth on a regular basis and updates the definition of indigent to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. These changes would help more youth in need to access mental health services, which in turn would be beneficial to parents.
  - **STATUS:** Governor Gordon signed into law! (HEA No. 0025)
  - **WHAT HAPPENED?** This bill passed relatively easily through all stages of the process, with only one amendment by the House Labor, Health, and Social Services Committee. The amendment essentially outlined where reports of rules and regulations should go.
- **HB20: Medical treatment opportunity act.**
  - **Sponsored by:** Joint Revenue Interim Committee
  - **AN ACT** relating to Medicaid; providing for the expansion of Medicaid eligibility; limiting the continued expansion of Medicaid eligibility as specified.
  - **WHY IT MATTERS FOR WOMEN & GIRLS:** 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 men to enroll in an expanded Medicaid program. That's likely because the rate of Wyoming women working in low- and minimum-wage jobs is almost three times higher than that of Wyoming men. Working women under 35 make up the largest group of people in Wyoming's coverage gap.
  - **STATUS:** *House did not consider for Introduction.*
  - **WHAT HAPPENED?** "A nearly identical bill passed in 2021 with a 32 – 28 vote. Statewide grassroots efforts have increased that margin in the meantime. But because the Legislature's 2022 session is a "budget session," non-budget bills like HB-20 required a two-thirds majority vote to be introduced. They require 40 "aye" votes from the chamber's 60 members.
  - Despite the strong legislative support, grassroots pressure, tireless lobbying, and a historic rally on the steps of the Wyoming Capitol, Medicaid expansion advocates could not secure enough votes for HB-20 to clear the two-thirds majority threshold. Knowing the bill lacked the support it needed to be introduced, House leadership decided to hold the bill back." - [Healthy Wyoming](#)
- **HB68: Broadband and telehealth access projects.**
  - **Sponsored by:** Select Committee on Blockchain, Financial Technology and Digital Innovation Technology
  - **AN ACT** relating to the support of broadband internet and telehealth access; appropriating federal funds for broadband access projects and telehealth access projects as specified; providing requirements for projects funded; etc.

- **WHY IT MATTERS FOR WOMEN & GIRLS:** Women and girls in rural Wyoming communities, who may otherwise have to travel prohibitively far for services, will have better access to healthcare with broadband and telehealth.
- **STATUS:** *House did not consider for Introduction.*
- **WHAT HAPPENED?** The House did not consider for Introduction, therefore, neither Chamber voted on this bill.

#### Monitored Legislation:

- **HB01/SF01: General government appropriations**
  - **Supported Amendments to the Budget Bill**
    - **Medicaid Expansion Amendments**
      - In a later stab at expanding Medicaid, identical budget amendments were proposed in both the Wyoming House and Senate that would have expanded Medicaid if they had passed.
      - In the Senate, members agreed to hear the [budget amendment](#) put forward by Senator Cale Case (R-Lander). The amendment was voted down by a 6 aye to 24 nay margin.
      - In the House, members voted against hearing the [budget amendment](#) proposed by Representative Cathy Connolly (D-Laramie). The House of Representatives did not vote on the amendment itself but voted that this should not be considered during a Budget Session.
      - **STATUS OF BOTH BUDGET AMENDMENTS:** Failed.

#### Opposed Legislation

##### **HB85: Child endangering- controlled substance use while pregnant.**

- **Sponsored by:** Senator(s) Perkins, Boner, Case, Kinskey, Kost, Nethercott and Salazar and Representative(s) Flitner, Harshman, Larsen, Sweeney and Walters
- **AN ACT** relating to crimes and offenses; creating a new offense for child abuse; providing a penalty; amending requirements for mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse; and providing for an effective date.
- **WHY IT MATTERS FOR WOMEN & GIRLS:** Punitive policies push women away from healthcare that they need to have a healthy pregnancy. According to research by Dr. Laura Faherty, "*more infants were born with drug withdrawal symptoms in states with policies that punish pregnant women for substance use. This was the case both immediately after the policy was enacted, and in the longer term.*" Pushing pregnant women away from healthcare has detrimental effects for children.
- **STATUS:** *Died in Senate Labor, Health, and Social Services Committee*
- **WHAT HAPPENED?** This bill failed the "Do Pass" recommendation in the Labor committee. There was no report available to the Senate before the COW cutoff, so the bill died in committee. As mentioned previously, bills must be reported out of the committee with one of the four recommendations. This bill was not reported with a recommendation before the due date, and therefore "died in committee".

##### **SF39: Child protection- dangerous drugs.**

- **Sponsored by:** Representative(s) Oakley, Baker, Barlow, Crago, Flitner, Larsen, Romero-Martinez, Sommers and Winter and Senator(s) Baldwin, Driskill, Hutchings and Kolb

- **AN ACT** relating to crimes and offenses; creating a new endangering children felony; providing a penalty; and providing for an effective date.
- **WHY IT MATTERS FOR WOMEN & GIRLS:** Punitive policies push women away from healthcare that they need to have a healthy pregnancy. According to research by Dr. Laura Faherty, “*more infants were born with drug withdrawal symptoms in states with policies that punish pregnant women for substance use. This was the case both immediately after the policy was enacted, and in the longer term.*” Pushing pregnant women away from healthcare has detrimental effects for children.
- **STATUS:** Failed the Senate's Committee of the Whole (COW) vote.
- **WHAT HAPPENED?** This bill went all the way through the House but failed the COW vote in the Senate (8 ayes, 17 nays, and 5 excused). The fantastic testimony and advocacy work surrounding this bill were responsible for the death of this bill. However, we suspect that similar themes will arise in interim topics.

# Education Legislation

## Supported Legislation

- **HB28: Hathaway lump sum merit scholarship.**
  - **Sponsored by:** Joint Education Interim Committee
  - **AN ACT** relating to the Hathaway scholarship program; amending award timing for the Hathaway scholarship program; amending eligibility requirements as specified; amending the calculation of unmet financial need; amending the calculation of scholarship amounts; deleting obsolete language; specifying applicability.
  - **WHY IT MATTERS FOR WOMEN & GIRLS:** Early access to scholarship funds could help women and girls access education.
  - **STATUS:** *Failed House Introduction.*
  - **WHAT HAPPENED?** The vote to introduce HB28 in the House of Representatives failed (29 ayes and 31 nays).
- **HB29: Hathaway scholarship amendments.**
  - **Sponsored by:** Joint Education Interim Committee
  - **AN ACT** relating to Hathaway scholarship program; merging the reserve and expenditure accounts; increasing the available balance in the expenditure account; modifying investment of funds; increasing scholarship awards as specified; making conforming amendments; transferring funds.
  - **WHY IT MATTERS FOR WOMEN & GIRLS:** Providing more funding for the Hathaway scholarship to increase access to education for women and girls.
  - **STATUS:** *Failed Senate 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading.*
  - **WHAT HAPPENED?** This bill made it out of the Chamber of Origin and mostly throughout the second Chamber, however, it failed in the Senate's 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading (14 ayes and 15 nays).
- **HB31: Wyoming's tomorrow scholarship program.**
  - **Sponsored by:** Joint Education Interim Committee
  - **AN ACT** relating to higher education; creating the Wyoming's tomorrow scholarship program; providing eligibility requirements; authorizing administration and rulemaking; creating an account and a permanent fund; requiring reports; providing for a continuous appropriation; amending a provision regarding permanent funds of the state; making conforming amendments; providing for a transfer of funds; specifying applicability.
  - **WHY IT MATTERS FOR WOMEN & GIRLS:** The new scholarship fund this bill would create would expand financial aid options to a demographic of Wyomingites seeking a Bachelor's degree that were not previously eligible for scholarships. We know that with more education, women's wages increase and their chances of reaching self-sufficiency are greater.
  - **STATUS:** Governor Gordon signed into law! (HEA No. 0048)
  - **WHAT HAPPENED?** This bill has been signed into law. However, a lot of debate occurred within the Senate on amount of funding for this program. Essentially, the endowment fund created by this law must reach \$50 million before scholarships are awarded. The state auditor will only transfer \$10 million to the fund in 2023. It is unknown when or how this scholarship program will be effectively implemented
- **SE55: Childcare facility certification exemption.**



- **Sponsored by:** Senator(s) Perkins, Boner, Case, Kinskey, Kost, Nethercott and Salazar and Representative(s) Flitner, Harshman, Larsen, Sweeney and Walters
- **AN ACT** relating to children; exempting specified after school programs from childcare facility certification requirements; and providing for an effective date.
- **WHY IT MATTERS FOR WOMEN & GIRLS:** This bill opens up more opportunities for afterschool care, which is essential for the success of working mother.
- **STATUS:** Governor Gordon signed into law! (SEA No. 0042)
- **WHAT HAPPENED?** This bill has been signed into law. It will allow for an exemption for after school programs, so that they may be able to operate without jumping over hurdles that were specifically created for childcare.

#### Monitored Legislation:

- **HB01/SF01: General government appropriations (specifically the amendment)**
  - **Opposed Amendment to the Budget Bill**  
**Gender and Women's Studies Amendment**
    - **WHAT HAPPENED?** The most worrying part of HB001/SF001 for WYWF this year was the amendment that was adopted in the Senate ([SF0001S3009](#)). This amendment would have stripped funding for "any gender studies courses, academic programs, co-curricular programs or extracurricular programs". The [mirror amendment failed](#) in the House. For this reason, the Joint Conference Committee had to come up with a resolution.
    - In this JCC meeting, the amendment was restructured to only include reporting requirements on non-credit courses (usually on sexual and behavioral health) that students take prior to registering for classes.
    - **Although the original intent of the amendment did not pass, it is worrisome that this was an amendment that was proposed (and even passed the vote to be adopted in the Senate!).**
    - Much of the ludicrous rhetoric surrounding the amendment was that gender and women's studies program contributed to censorship and "indoctrination" of students. We find it absurd that the legislature in the state that was the leader in women's suffrage does not want students to learn about it. If this amendment had passed, discussions about accomplishments and perspectives of women would have been diminished. Therefore, access to educational opportunities would have been lessened for women.

#### Opposed Legislation

##### **SFS1: Fairness in women's sports act.**

- **Sponsored by:** Senator(s) Schuler, French, Salazar and Steinmetz and Representative(s) Gray, Haroldson and Jennings
- **AN ACT** relating to school sports; prohibiting biological males from athletic teams and sports designated for females in public schools; establishing related causes of action and protections for individuals and educational institutions; requiring rulemaking.
- **WHY IT MATTERS FOR WOMEN & GIRLS:** This legislation is not necessary to, or effective at, its purpose to protect women and girls. Both the association overseeing

Wyoming high school athletics and the collegiate athletics association have processes in place to determine competing eligibility for transgender athletes that consider the individual wishing to compete. The one-size-fits-all policy laid out in this bill would deny some Wyoming women and girls important out-of-classroom learning and personal development opportunities through athletics. [Read more about why it matters.](#)

- **STATUS:** *House did not consider for introduction.*
- **WHAT HAPPENED?** In the Senate Education Committee, this bill had wonderful testimony by University of Wyoming students, directors of organizations that would be affected, and lawyers from the ACLU. Unfortunately, the bill sailed through the Senate. However, in the House, SF51 was **not** pulled out of the drawer due to the House of Representatives adhering to the procedures of the State of Wyoming! We appreciate Speaker of the House, Representative Barlow, who stood staunchly with the process and relayed the importance of the other bills that were already introduced.
- The fight is not over, the WYWF would not be surprised if a similar bill reappears in the next legislative session as transgender women in sports are a “hot-button issue” nationwide.

# Representation Legislation

## Supported Legislation

- **SF58: Wyoming council for women's issues- workforce services.**
  - Sponsored by: Joint Appropriations Committee
  - **AN ACT** relating to the Wyoming council for women's issues; placing the council for women's issues within the department of workforce services; transferring authority, positions, property, equipment and funding for the council for women's issues from the Wyoming business council; etc.
  - **WHY IT MATTERS FOR WOMEN & GIRLS:** This shows that the state is listening to and prioritizing women in regards to workforce issues.
  - **STATUS:** Governor Gordon signed into law! (SEA No. 0008)

## Monitored Legislation:

- **HB100: Redistricting of the legislature**
  - **WHY IT MATTERS FOR WOMEN & GIRLS:** Redistricting will have an impact on districts for the next decade. What are Multi-Member Districts?  
[https://www.fairvote.org/multi\\_member\\_districts\\_a\\_win\\_for\\_representation](https://www.fairvote.org/multi_member_districts_a_win_for_representation)
  - **STATUS:** Became law without signature.
  - **WHAT HAPPENED?** This bill included debates at every level in the legislative process. In the end, lawmakers approved a map that adds two people to the House of Representatives and one to the Senate to represent the population growth in urban areas.
  - However, the outcome puts a couple of districts (Sheridan and Johnson County districts) outside of the [+/-5% deviation](#) standard put forth by the United States Supreme Court. If legislative districts are out of deviation, they risk being struck down by the courts in violation of the 14th Amendment. In other words, all changes made to the map are still contingent on a possible legal challenge or other intervention by the courts.
  - In other states, like Arizona and Colorado, independent redistricting commissions draw electoral district boundaries. This can help the process remain objective and not beneficial to specific legislators.
  - There is not a signature from the Governor on this bill; it can become law without his signature. He could have filed objections to the bill with the Secretary of State within 15 days of the Legislature's adjournment. He chose [not to do so](#).
  - New Districts: SD 31: South Cheyenne, HD 61: East Casper HD 62: West of Cheyenne

## Opposed Legislation

### **HR74: Runoff elections.**

- **Sponsored by:** Representative(s) Neiman, Bear, Gray, Haroldson, Jennings, Rodriguez-Williams and Williams and Senator(s) Biteman, Boner, Driskill, French, Salazar and Steinmetz
- **AN ACT** relating to elections; requiring a [runoff election](#) after a primary election for specified offices when no candidate receives a majority of the vote; providing the format of the runoff ballot; changing the date for primary elections; amending related dates; making conforming changes; amending election contribution laws; providing that the act is contingent on adoption of a constitutional amendment.

- **WHY IT MATTERS FOR WOMEN & GIRLS:** If constitutional amendment outlined in HJ0003 (below) is adopted and this bill has passed, then this bill would foreclose instant runoff voting. Instant run-offs happen under a ranked choice voting system when the election is for a single position. Ranked choice voting results in more women elected than winner takes all systems.
- **STATUS:** *House did not consider for Introduction.*
- **WHAT HAPPENED?** The House of Representatives did not consider for introduction. The bill was never voted on in either Chamber.

### **HB03: Runoff elections constitutional amendment.**

- **Sponsored by:** Representative(s) Neiman, Bear, Gray, Haroldson, Jennings, Rodriguez-Williams and Williams and Senator(s) Biteman, Boner, Driskill, French, Salazar and Steinmetz
- **A JOINT RESOLUTION** to amend the time and process for the legislature to reapportion its members in order to accommodate holding primary elections in May and subsequent runoff elections as necessary.
- **WHY IT MATTERS FOR WOMEN & GIRLS:** If the amendment is adopted, and HB0074 (above) passes as drafted, then [instant runoffs](#) used in ranked choice voting would not be permitted.
- **STATUS:** *Failed Introduction in the House.*
- **WHAT HAPPENED?** The vote to introduce this Joint Resolution failed in the House of Representatives (29 ayes and 30 nays).
- More [info about RCV vs runoff](#).
- Priority #5 for [Joint Corporations in the Interim](#).

# Childcare & Workplace Policies Legislation

## Supported Legislation

- **HB16: Military assistance trust fund- authorized uses.**
  - **Sponsored by:** Transportation, Highways, & Military Affairs Committee
  - **AN ACT** relating to defense forces and affairs; expanding authorized uses of the military assistance trust fund; and providing for an effective date.
  - **WHY IT MATTERS FOR WOMEN & GIRLS:** This bill would allow guardsmen and women to use funds for childcare, which is essential for the success of working parents.
  - **STATUS:** Governor Gordon signed into law! (HEA No. 0027)
  - **WHAT HAPPENED?** This bill passed relatively easily through all stages of the process, with no amendments to the original bill. The closest call was in the House's 3rd reading, when the bill passed with 39 ayes and 20 nays.
- **HB53: Military department- discrimination or harassment grievances.**
  - **Sponsored by:** Joint Transportation, Highways, & Military Affairs Committee
  - **AN ACT** relating to discrimination and harassment grievances involving the Wyoming national guard or military department; providing the Wyoming military department processes for reporting discrimination and sexual harassment; requiring agreements between the military department and the department of workforce services; etc.
  - **WHY IT MATTERS FOR WOMEN & GIRLS:** This bill aims to address mishandled sexual misconduct and gender discrimination complaints by bringing more outside oversight to the state military department. The US Army has concluded that while men and women both face forms of harassment, women are more likely to face “serious” or “persistent” harassment. More than one-third of women reported repeated attempts by other soldiers to establish an unwanted romantic or sexual relationship, compared to 9 percent of men.
  - **STATUS:** Governor Gordon signed into law! (HEA No. 0054)
  - **WHAT HAPPENED?** This bill passed and will be signed into law. This bill will create an authorized position to act as an Equal Employment Opportunity Officer for the Wyoming Military Department's federal employees. This bill also created processes for military to report discrimination and harassment.
- **SB45: Military department- annual report.**
  - **Sponsored by:** Joint Transportation, Highways, & Military Affairs Committee
  - **AN ACT** relating to defense forces and affairs; requiring an annual report as specified; and providing for an effective date.
  - **WHY IT MATTERS FOR WOMEN & GIRLS:** This bill would require the Wyoming military to debrief legislators and the governor’s office on its harassment, assault and discrimination cases every year. The US Army has concluded that while men and women both face forms of harassment, women are more likely to face “serious” or “persistent” harassment. More than one-third of women reported repeated attempts by other soldiers to establish an unwanted romantic or sexual relationship, compared to 9 percent of men.
  - **STATUS:** Governor Gordon signed into law! (SEA No. 0011)
  - **WHAT HAPPENED?** This bill passed and will be signed into law. This bill codifies as a requirement annual reporting to state officials that is already being conducted by the Wyoming Military Department. However, this bill specifically requires a report on sexual harassment, discrimination and sexual assault matters within the military department.