



Selected Legislative Achievements 1978 - Present

Freedom From Violence

MWL works to protect women against violence in our homes, relationships, communities, and workplace.

- √ **1979** **Maine Legislature votes to use state money to fund battered women's projects.**
It was the rejection of this bill the year before that mobilized women to form the Maine Women's Lobby.
- √ **1985-87** **Significant changes were made to Maine's sexual assault laws.**
- √ **1991** **Maine enacts Model Sexual Harassment Law.**
- √ **1996** **An Act to Prohibit Stalking was passed to make stalking a crime.**
- √ **1999** **Employment leave guaranteed for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.**
- √ **2001** **Maine Legislature passes L.D. 524, An Act to Fund Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Intervention and Prevention Programs.**
- √ **2003** **Remove firearms in temporary protection from abuse order cases.**
- √ **2005** **The Motherhood Protection Act was passed to provide special weight in sentencing of crimes against pregnant women and calls for increased data collection on violence against pregnant women.**
- √ **2006** **Allows victims of violence to be notified when a person named in a Protection From Abuse Order (PFA) attempts to purchase a firearm.**

Reproductive Rights/Health Care

Since 1978, the Maine Women's Lobby has been on the forefront of Maine's pro-choice movement. We firmly believe in a woman's right to make her own decisions about child bearing. MWL is dedicated to the ongoing struggle to keep those rights from being eroded.

- √ **1978-Now** **Beginning in 1979, Maine Women's Lobby works to defeat anti-choice legislation.**
- √ **1988** **Family Medical Leave Act passes in Maine.**
- √ **1990** **Maine Women's Lobby headed the effort to require insurance companies to cover mammograms.**
- √ **1993** **Passage of Reproductive Privacy Act: Codifies provisions of Roe vs. Wade into Maine law.**
- √ **1996** **Act to Promote the Health of Newborns and their Mothers.**
- √ **1999** **Defeat of anti-choice abortion ban referendum.**
- √ **2000** **Expansion of Medicaid Coverage for parents who have incomes up to 150% of the poverty level. →**

√ 2004 **Increased Access to Emergency Contraception at local pharmacies without a prescription.**

√ 2005 **Defeat of several bills aiming to limit sex education and a woman's right to choose.**

Anti-Discrimination/Civil Rights

MWL is committed to working against discrimination in any form and to promoting the contributions of women and girls in all areas of the economy and society.

√ 1981 **Maine Women's Lobby joins struggle to pass legislation banning discrimination based on sexual orientation in the areas of housing, credit, employment and accommodation.**

√ 1983 **Maine Education Equity Act.**

√ 1991 **Passage of An Act to Prohibit Educational Discrimination.**

√ 2000 **An Act Concerning Offensive Names:** The MWL supported efforts by Native American women to pass legislation adding the word "squaw" to the list of offensive names and prohibits its use by the State to designate place names.

√ 2004 **Passage of the Domestic Partners Inheritance Bill:** The law extends inheritance rights, next-of-kin status, victim's compensation, and guardian and conservator rights to domestic partners in Maine through a statewide domestic partnership registry.

√ 2005 **Passage of anti-discrimination bill.** This law will end discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, credit, education, and employment.

Economic Self Sufficiency and Family

MWL is committed to enhancing economic security and opportunity for all women.

√ 1982 **Welfare, Education, Employment and Training (WEET) program created.**

√ 1989 **Occupational Safety and Health Training for Video Display Terminal Workers.**

√ 1992 **Non-traditional Occupations Training Act.**

√ 1997 **Maine Legislature passes a resolve requiring the Maine Department of Labor to promulgate rules to implement a 1965 comparable pay statute.**

√ 1998 **Maine passes legislation that maintains a safety net for families after 5 years of public assistance as long as they continue to adhere to rules.**

√ 2001 **Maine becomes the first state to develop guidelines for implementing a law requiring that women are paid fairly for the value of their work.**

√ 2003 **Part-time unemployment insurance.** Provides unemployment insurance benefits to people who choose to work part-time rather than full-time.

√ 2004 **Maine Raises Minimum Wage from \$6.25 to \$6.35 October 2004 and 15 cents more October 2005.**

√ 2005 **Maine passes legislation allowing employees flexible sick leave.** Requires businesses with 25 or more employees that provide paid sick leave or vacation time to allow their employees to use up to 40 hours per year of this leave to care for an ill child, spouse, or parent.

√ 2006 **Maine Raises Minimum Wage from \$6.50 to \$6.75 October 2006 and 25 cents more October 2007.**