







SR 31 by Sen. Royce Duplessis COMMENDATIONS: Commends United Way of Southeast Louisiana on the occasion of its centennial anniversary.



HCR 15 by Rep. Aimee Freeman COMMENDATIONS: Commends United Way of Southeast Louisiana on the occasion of its centennial anniversary.

UNITED WAY: CELEBRATING 100 YEARS IN SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA

United Way of Southeast Louisiana is celebrating 100 years of driving positive change, all thanks to the support of our donors, volunteers, advocates, and partners.

Over the last 100 years, United Way has been the force for good in our community. We've been at the forefront of improving outcomes in education, income, and health for every person, everywhere. Our communities' dedication to United Way is why more families have stable homes, children receive quality education, and people can afford a quality life. Our enduring legacy is a testament to the incredible impact your support has had on millions of lives.

Giving back has always been at the heart and soul of United Way's impact. As we celebrate our centennial, we're rolling up our sleeves and mobilizing the power of people, offering ways for you to create a community strong enough for the next 100 years. Your time, skills, and dedication have been instrumental in our journey to creating a brighter Southeast Louisiana.

We want to thank you for your dedicated support. Your donations, your time, your passion - it all matters.

Where there's a need, there's always been a United Way. We've come a long way, and our journey continues thanks to you.

Here's to the next century of creating positive, lasting change.











UWSELA Public Policy Committee

United Way of Southeast Louisiana

2024 LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

United for a Safe & Prosperous Community

United Way of Southeast Louisiana's (UWSELA) 2024 State Legislative Agenda, United for a Safe and Prosperous Community, continues to advance our efforts to eradicate poverty in Southeast Louisiana through our <u>Blueprint for Prosperity</u> and support <u>ALICE</u> (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households. ALICE represents the growing number of hardworking households across our state who are employed but unable to afford basic necessities (including housing, child care, health care, food, and transportation). According to the latest <u>ALICE data</u>, over half of households in our state are living in poverty or struggling to make ends meet.

UWSELA Public Policy team coordinated with our community impact experts to ensure we included issues resonating in our community and affecting ALICE households throughout our seven parish region: Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington.

Investing in public policy work is crucial for United Way because it amplifies our ability to create sustainable, long-term change. By influencing legislation and state budgets, we ensure that the needs of our most vulnerable populations are met with effective solutions. This work allows us to address root causes and systemic issues rather than treating symptoms. Public policy advocacy enables us to scale our impact, making a broader and more enduring difference in the lives of those we serve.

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

To help engage our collaborative partners and funders, we held two educational sessions, featuring subject matter experts who shared their knowledge to assist us in creating a robust agenda.

View the recordings of UWSELA Public Policy Educational Sessions 1 and 2.

For additional information, please refer to the <u>House</u> <u>Legislative Services Session Wrap-up</u>.



Ron McClain Public Policy Chairman

2024 LOUISIANA EXTRAORDINARY SESSIONS

The 2024 First Extraordinary Session convened January 15 and adjourned January 19, called by Governor Jeff Landry, <u>Governor's Proclamation No. 01</u>, to legislate relative to the redistricting of the Congressional districts of Louisiana.

ACT 2 (SB 8) by Sen. Glen Womack

CONGRESS: Provides for redistricting of Louisiana congressional districts. A map creating a second majority-Black congressional district, passed in the Louisiana Legislature after a week of the Redistricting Special Session. The state was granted a final opportunity to pass a map before the deadline of the Federal court trial of Robinson v. Landry.

The 2024 Second Extraordinary Session convened February 19 and adjourned February 29, called by Governor Jeff Landry, <u>Governor's Proclamation No. 13</u>, to address crime issues. Legislators were limited to filing and debating bills within the 24 items in the governor's call. A total number of 41 instruments were filed, including 23 House bills, 15 Senate bills, and 3 resolutions.

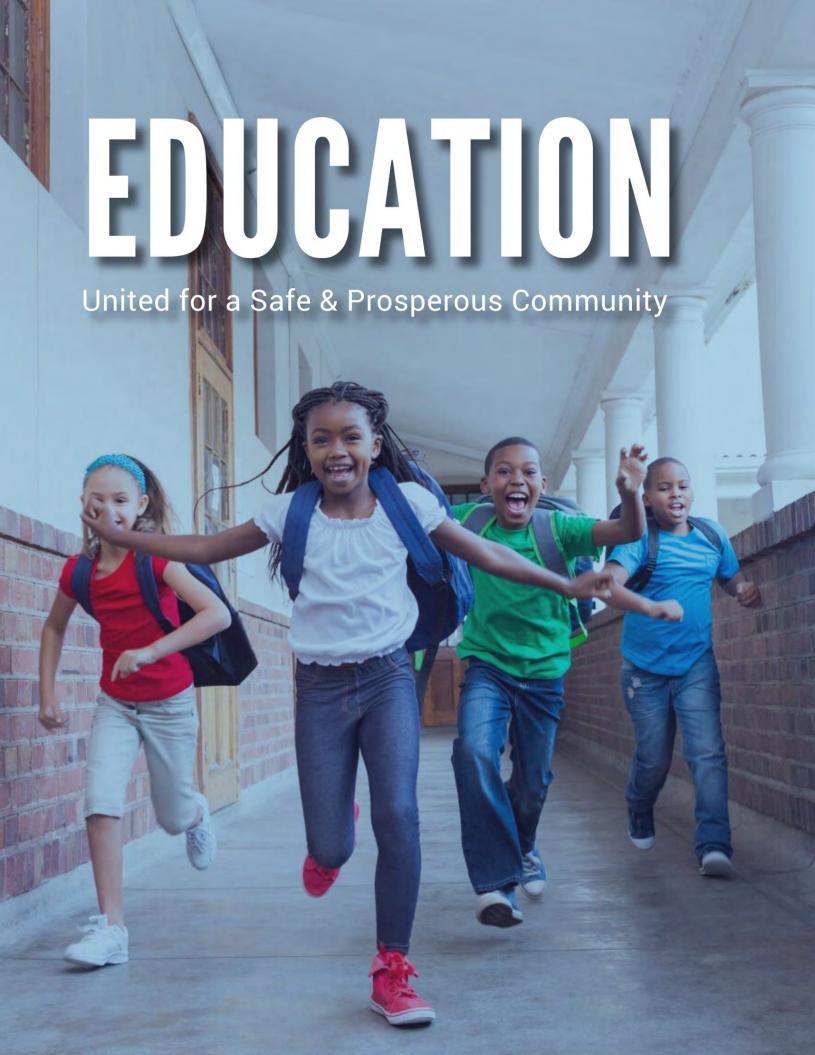
2024 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The 2024 Regular Legislative Session convened March 11 and adjourned June 3. Evennumbered years are general sessions. No matters involving state taxes or tax exemptions, exclusions, deductions, or credits could be considered. The number of instruments filed totaled 1,491 bills: 982 House bills, 509 Senate bills, 42 constitutional amendments, and 771 resolutions and study requests.

UWSELA's 2024 State Legislative Agenda, United for a Safe and Prosperous Community, included priorities in education, financial stability, health, and community strengthening.

We had many significant wins in Appropriations, <u>ACT 4</u> (Formerly HB 1), which provides for the ordinary operating expenses of state government for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

- \$6.9 million boost for DCFS Foster Care Program
- \$30 million allocated for intensive tutoring for elementary school kids
- \$15 million secured for Fortify Roof Grants
- \$7 million reinstated for Domestic Violence shelters
- \$3.7 million back for Federal Summer Feeding Program





2024 EARLY ED DAY AT THE CAPITOL: A HUGE SUCCESS!

Ready Louisiana hosted its annual press briefing at the Capitol in the Governor's Press Room, followed by a successful luncheon at Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser's apartment in the Pentagon Barracks. UWSELA, the Louisiana Policy Institute for Children, and the entire Ready LA coalition educated elected officials about the importance of improving policies and increasing investment in quality early care and education (ECE) for children from birth through age four in Louisiana. Ready LA was honored in both the House and Senate Chambers. Over 200 Ready LA members participated in this year's Early Ed Day event.

UWSELA is grateful to the early care and education legislative champions who worked tirelessly to save at least 1,200 of the 2,000 ECE seats that were at risk of elimination. These ECE allocations are critical wins for our ALICE families, ensuring we can provide the support they need to thrive.



The Legislature passed three critical pieces of legislation that support children and their families:

- Restored \$15 million of a \$24 million cut to Early Care and Education in State Budget ACT 4
 (Formerly HB 1) authored by Chairman Jack McFarland, includes the restoration of \$15 million
 of \$24 million that was cut from the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), which saves at
 least 1,200 of 2,000 seats that could have been lost. The state will invest approximately \$78
 million for CCAP in the next fiscal year starting July 1, 2024.
- Early Childhood Care and Education Commission <u>ACT 260</u> (Formerly HB 190) authored by Rep. Barbara Freiberg, reforming the Early Care and Education Commission effective August 1. This includes revised quorum requirements and the addition of key partners, ensuring more input from childcare providers and the business community.
- Consumable Hemp Products Revenue for Early Childhood Education <u>ACT 752</u> (Formerly HB 952) authored by Rep. Dustin Miller, provides relative to the production and regulation of consumable hemp products. This bill is relevant to early care and education as consumable hemp products provide a dedicated funding stream into the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund.



UWSELA advocated for action in the wide range of supports necessary for young people to reach their full potentials, including early childhood and K-12 educational policies, protecting the rights and well-being of students, and investment in educational professionals to enhance student achievement and well-being.

ACT 364 (HB 78) by Rep. Kim Carver

SCHOOLS/CHARTER: Authorizes initial proposals for charter schools with corporate partners to be made to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education as Type 2 charter school proposals.

ACT 193 (HB 112) by Rep. John Wyble SCHOOLS/LOCAL SUPERINTDT: Provides for the consideration of student achievement in literacy and math in the evaluation of local school superintendents.

ACT 411 (HB 113) by Rep. Dixon McMakin

PUBLIC RECORDS: Provides that public institutions of postsecondary education furnish public records without charge to student media organizations affiliated with the institution.

ACT 543 (HB 137) by Rep. Ken Brass

CHILDREN: Provides relative to the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board.

ACT 368 (HB 143) by Rep. Tony Bacala

schools/finance-MFP: Authorizes the state superintendent to hire a chief operating officer to make recommendations relative to the financial practices of local school systems failing to comply with the MFP's minimum instructional expenditure requirement.

ACT 260 (HB 190) by Rep. Barbara Freiberg
EARLY CHILDHOOD: Provides relative to the Early
Childhood Care and Education Commission.

ACT 649 (HB 244) by Rep. Jason Hughes

STUDENTS: Expands the purpose of the Steve Carter Literacy Program to include educational services in math.

ACT 211 (HB 264) by Rep. Jason Hughes

CURRICULA: Adds computer science as a high school graduation requirement and requires teacher preparation programs to include computer science education.

ACT 650 (HB 267) by Rep. Kim Carver

STUDENT/ASSESSMENT: Provides relative to numeracy education to students in kindergarten through third grade.

ACT 154 (HB 551) by Rep. Ken Brass

CURRICULA: Revises the membership and duties of the Dual Enrollment Framework Task Force.

ACT 115 (HB 600) by Rep. Barbara Carpenter SCHOOLS/EMPLOYEES: Provides relative to sick leave banks for teachers, bus operators, and other school employees.

ACT 633 (HB 728) by Rep. Paula Davis

HIGHER EDUCATION: Provides relative to initial eligibility requirements for the M.J. Foster Promise Program.

HCR 17 by Rep. Laurie Schlegel

SCHOOLS/EMPLOYEES: Requests the state
Department of Education, Department of Children
and Family Services, and Louisiana Department
of Health to collaborate to increase mental
health counseling in public schools.

HCR 38 by Rep. Timothy Kerner

CHILDREN/TUTORSHIP: Requests the La. State Bar Association to work with organizations providing legal aid to assist parents and guardians of children with disabilities to obtain permanent tutorships.

HCR 44 by Rep. Michael Melerine

SCHOOLS/HIGH SCHOOL: Directs the State
Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to
explore the creation of an appeals process for
certain students who do not pass stateadministered, end-of-course assessments
required for high school graduation.



HR 39 by Rep. Alonzo Knox
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT: Requests the state
Department of Education to report to the
legislature relative to adverse childhood
experience education pilot programs.

ACT 499 (SB 72) by Sen. Thomas Pressly STUDENTS: Exempts students with dyslexia from certain literacy examinations and provides for alternative progress monitoring tests.

ACT 669 (SB 124) by Sen. Beth Mizell
CRIMINAL JUSTICE: Creates the Sexual Assault
Survivor's Bill of Rights. (8/1/24)

ACT 669 (SB 124) by Sen. Beth Mizell CRIMINAL JUSTICE: Creates the Sexual Assault Survivor's Bill of Rights. (8/1/24)

ACT 331 (SB 310) by Sen. Regina Barrow SCHOOLS: Requires every public and approved nonpublic secondary school to print "988" on the back of all school IDs. (7/1/24)



ACT 517 (SB 336) by Sen. Thomas Pressly STUDENTS: Provides for dyslexia screening and subsequent testing and core assessment.

(8/1/24)

ACT 482 (SB 343) by Sen. Regina Barrow COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES: Provides relative to the prevention of power-based violence in public postsecondary education institutions.

ACT 335 (SB 352) by Sen. Beth Mizell CURRICULA: Provides relative to the Dual Enrollment Framework Task Force. (8/1/24)

ACT 525 (SB 440) by Sen. Thomas Pressly FUNDS/FUNDING: Creates a Dyslexia Fund for the purpose of funding the testing of students for dyslexia.

ACT 771 (SB 508) (formerly SB 288) by Sen. Patrick McMath
SCHOOLS: Provides relative to required high-dosage tutoring for certain students.







FINANCIAL STABILITY LEGISLATION

UWSELA encouraged increased support for evidence-based programs and policies that foster economic stability and financial empowerment for all, including workforce development, emergency assistance, and the establishment of a living wage. We also monitored legislation that would hinder positions we have taken in the past that may further negatively impact our ALICE households.

HB 290 by Rep. Denise Marcelle - FAILED

EMPLOYMENT/WAGES-MINIMUM: Establishes a state minimum wage rate

HB 431 by Rep. Delisha Boyd - FAILED

EMPLOYMENT/WAGES-MINIMUM: Provides relative to the state minimum wage.

SB 173 by Sen. Gary Carter - FAILED

EMPLOYMENT: Provides relative to the state minimum wage.

SB 174 by Sen. Gary Carter - FAILED

EMPLOYMENT: Provides relative to employment practices related to wage history, wage disclosure, and retaliation. (8/1/24)

SB 180 by Sen. Regina Barrow - FAILED

EMPLOYMENT: Constitutional amendment to establish a state minimum wage.





UWSELA inspired action to ensure that all Louisianans have access to equitable health services that protect and improve mental and physical well-being, including trauma-informed care, mental health services, paid family leave, Medicaid, maternal child health, sexual assault, and human trafficking.

ACT 20 (HB 192) by Rep. Dustin Miller SUNSET LAW: Re-creates the Louisiana Department of Health.

ACT 421 (HB 252) by Rep. Mike Johnson EDUCATION: Provides relative to the provision of cardiac health information to student athletes and their parents.

ACT 607 (HB 329) by Rep. Brach Myers FUNDS/FUNDING: Provides with respect to the Health Care Employment Reinvestment Opportunity (H.E.R.O.) Fund.

ACT 218 (HB 361) by Rep. Joe Stagni
HEALTH/CANCER: Provides relative to colorectal screening.

ACT 784 (HB 392) by Rep. Aimee Freeman MEDICAID: Provides relative to Medicaid and private insurance coverage for perimenopausal and menopausal care.

ACT 378 (HB 456) by Rep. Paula Davis EDUCATION: Provides relative to the administration of medication at school.

ACT 455 (HB 846) by Rep. Alonzo Knox FISCAL CONTROLS: Provides relative to reporting on federal and state funding of mental health services.

ACT 665 (HB 961) by Rep. Nicholas Muscarello CORRECTIONS/PRISONERS: Provides relative to the creation of a mental health transition pilot program.

ACT 278 (SB 11) by Sen. Franklin Foil
FUNDS/FUNDING: Provides relative to the
Louisiana Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury
Trust Fund.

HEALTH LEGISLATION

ACT 121 (SB 46) by Sen. Patrick McMath HEALTH DEPARTMENT: Creates the Alzheimer's and Related Dementias Advisory Council within the Louisiana Department of Health.

ACT 160 (SB 48) by Sen. Kirk Talbot GENETICS: Provides for health insurance coverage of genetic testing for diseases and other medical conditions.

ACT 95 (SB 54) by Sen. Bill Wheat
HEALTH SERVICES: Requires CPR/AED training
for coaches in Louisiana. (8/1/24)

ACT 122 (SB 55) by Sen. Gary Carter

HEALTH CARE: Provides relative to post-birth information. (8/1/24)

ACT 161 (SB 56) by Sen. Bill Wheat STUDENTS: Provides for the administration of medication to students by certain practitioners.

ACT 290 (SB 91) by Sen. Royce Duplessis DNA: Extends the deadline for post-conviction DNA testing. (8/1/24)

ACT 145 (SB 92) by Sen. Royce Duplessis CHILDREN'S CODE: Provides relative to the Safe Haven Law. (8/1/24)

ACT 504 (SB 106) by Sen. Regina Barrow HEALTH CARE: Provides relative to obesity treatment. (8/1/24)

ACT 299 (SB 143) by Sen. Regina Barrow HEALTH CARE: Provides for hypertension screening.

ACT 507 (SB 145) by Sen. Regina Barrow CHILDREN: Provides relative to the state child ombudsman. (8/1/24)

ACT 301 (SB 148) by Sen. Beth Mizell HEALTH/ACC INSURANCE: Provides relative to postpartum depression. (8/1/24)

ACT 147 (SB 163) by Sen. Rick Edmonds
SUBSTANCE ABUSE: Provides relative to the
Advisory Council on Heroin and Opioid
Prevention and Education.

ACT 306 (SB 190) by Sen. Gerald Boudreaux MEDICAID: Provides for Medicaid reimbursement rate increases. (8/1/24)

ACT 310 (SB 200) by Sen. Royce Duplessis
HEALTH/ACC INSURANCE: Provides for out-ofstate health insurance coverage when the
governor declares a state of emergency.

ACT 166 (SB 231) by Sen. Royce Duplessis MENTAL HEALTH: Provides regarding involuntary outpatient treatment for mental health. (8/1/24)



HEALTH LEGISLATION

ACT 324 (SB 252) by Sen. Beth Mizell

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: Requires city, parish and other local public school boards to adopt and implement a program to facilitate behavior health intervention and referral for treatment. (8/1/24)

ACT 762 (SB 300) by Sen. Royce Duplessis

INSURANCE POLICIES: Provides for health insurance coverage of pregnancy-related and postpartum healthcare services. (8/1/24)

ACT 174 (SB 338) by Sen. Gerald Boudreaux

HEALTH/ACC INSURANCE: Requires health coverage plans to include alternative imaging methods to mammography.

ACT 772 (SB 509) by Sen. Royce Duplessis

PUBLIC HEALTH: Creates the office of violence prevention in the Louisiana Department of Health. (8/1/24)

ACT 533 (SB 484) by Sen. Royce Duplessis

PROPERTY INSURANCE: Provides for changes to the Louisiana Fortify Homes Program.

SCR 6 by Sen. Gary Carter

HEALTH CARE: Requests the Louisiana Department of Health to apply to participate in the CMS Transforming Maternal Health Model.

SCR 9 by Sen. Beth Mizell

SUBSTANCE ABUSE: Requests the Louisiana Department of Health to develop a strategy for statewide implementation of ODMAP.

SCR 23 by Sen. Regina Barrow

HEALTH DEPARTMENT: To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study behavioral health demand and access.









COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING LEGISLATION

UWSELA championed policies that increased equity and eliminated barriers to opportunity for vulnerable individuals and families, including access to affordable housing, protection from insurance exploitation, and prevention of discriminatory and exclusionary practices.

ACT 604 (HB 220) by Rep. Mike Bayham ELECTIONS/POLLING PLACES: Provides for publication of polling locations.

ACT 207 (HB 230) by Rep. Stephanie Hilferty CRIMINAL/PROCEDURE: Provides relative to changes for post-conviction relief procedures.

ACT 470 (HB 319) by Rep. Candace Newell ELECTIONS/POLLING PLACES: Provides relative to notice of the reason for changes to polling places.

ACT 617 (HB 446) by Rep. Stephanie Hilferty PUBLIC MEETINGS: Provides relative to notifications of public meetings and duties of public bodies and the commissioner of administration relative thereto.

ACT 9 (HB 611) by Rep. Gabe Firment

INSURANCE/PROPERTY: Provides relative to homeowners' insurance and termination of certain policies. This bill phases out the 3 year rule, putting us in line with the rest of the 49 other states, incentivizing property insurers to come back to Louisiana.

HR 12 by Rep. Aimee Freeman

CORRECTIONS: Continues the task force created by House Resolution No. 174 of the 2023 R.S. to study the educational programs in the prisons and jails of this state.

ACT 32 (SB 103) by Sen. Royce Duplessis

COURTS: Provides for the appointment of interpreters in court proceedings. (8/1/24) (RE NO IMPACT See Note)



COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING LEGISLATION

ACT 58 (SB 132) by Sen. Gregory Miller

CRIME/PUNISHMENT: Provides relative to the crimes of illegal carrying of a firearm and reckless discharge of a firearm at a parade. (8/1/24)

ACT 124 (SB 183) by Sen. Gary Carter

JUVENILE JUSTICE: Requires an adjudicated child to be offered education services, vocational training, and counseling. (8/1/24)

ACT 168 (SB 251) by Sen. Regina Barrow

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES: Provides relative to educational programs provided by correctional facilities.

ACT 533 (SB 484) by Sen. Royce Duplessis

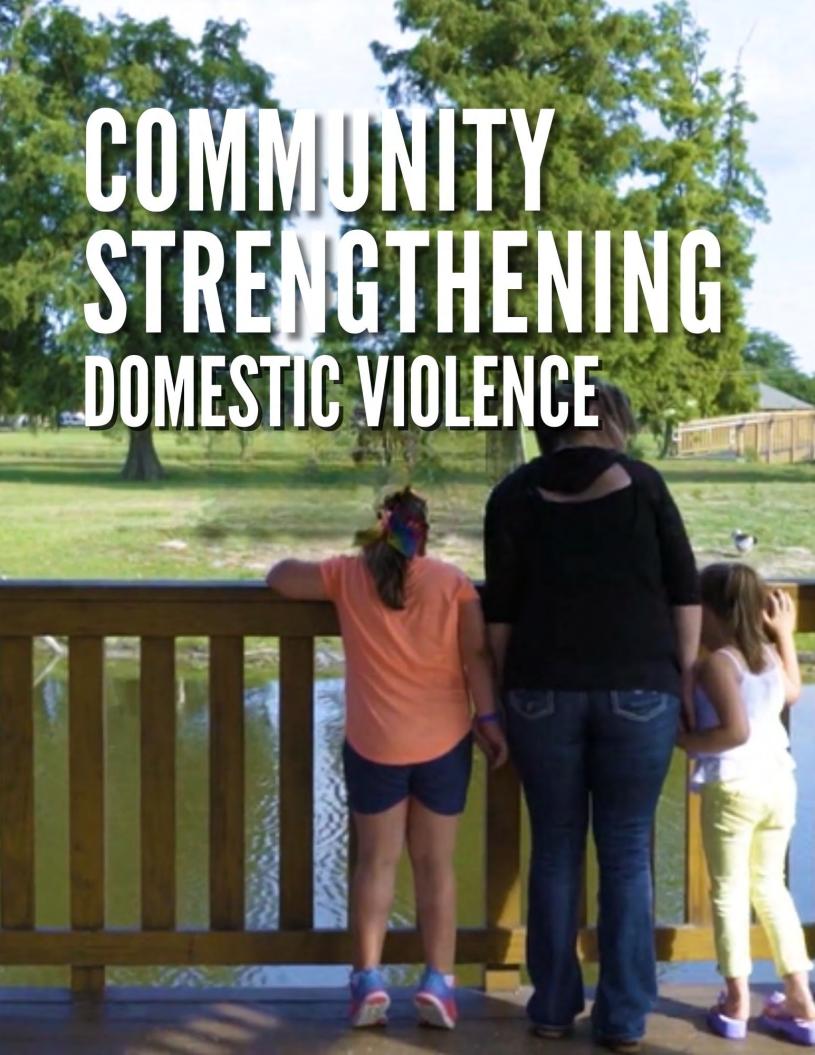
PROPERTY INSURANCE: Provides for changes to the Louisiana Fortify Homes Program.

SCR 4 by Sen. Beth Mizell

CONGRESS: Memorializes Congress to support the extension of funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) of 2021, which provides Louisiana residents access to broadband services.

SR 7 by Sen. Regina Barrow

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES: Urges and requests the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to provide the Senate committees on finance and judiciary C with a list of rehabilitative programs that are offered at each correctional facility.





DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEGISLATION

UWSELA continued efforts to promote and campaign for policies and procedures that protect and support survivors of domestic violence, including increased access to shelter and emergency services, increased protections for survivors, domestic violence training for system actors, intervention programs for perpetrators, and awareness-building efforts.

ACT 597 (HB 130) by Rep. Mike Bayham CRIME/SEX OFFENSES: Provides relative to the crime of molestation of a juvenile.

ACT 131 (HB 208) by Rep. Debbie Villio

DOMESTIC ABUSE: Provides relative to additional penalties for certain domestic violence offenses.

ACT 552 (HB 236) by Rep. Dixon McMakin CHILDREN/CUSTODY: Provides for evaluations in child custody proceedings.

ACT 132 (HB 283) by Rep. Laurie Schlegel MTR VEHICLE/COMMERCIAL: Requires that a commercial driver's curriculum offered by an educational institution or agency include human trafficking training.

ACT 216 (HB 335) by Rep. Kim Carver CHILDREN/ABUSE: Provides relative to mandatory reporters of child abuse.

ACT 557 (HB 356) by Rep. Delisha Boyd CRIMINAL/PROCEDURE: Provides for time limitations for prosecution of third degree rape.

ACT 92 (SB 39) by Sen. Beth Mizell CHILDREN'S CODE: Provides for continuous revisions to the Children's Code. (8/1/24)

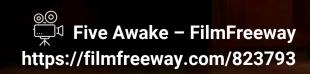
ACT 93 (SB 41) by Sen. Jay Morris CHILDREN'S CODE: Provides that part of the Children's Code's purpose is to promote public safety. (8/1/24)

ACT 505 (SB 107) by Sen. Beth Mizell CRIME/PUNISHMENT: Creates the crime of possessing, trafficking, or importing a child sex doll. (8/1/24)

ACT 669 (SB 124) by Sen. Beth Mizell CRIMINAL JUSTICE: Creates the Sexual Assault Survivor's Bill of Rights. (8/1/24)

A RESPONSE TO THE US SUPREME COURT'S DECISION TO UPHOLD A GUN CONTROL LAW INTENDED TO PROTECT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS

"When United Way of Southeast Louisiana brought this issue to the attention of the Legislature in 2014, we were told it would never pass. Nevertheless, we were determined, thanks to the full support of our organization and board of trustees. Under the leadership of JP Morrell and Helena Moreno, all legislators voted in support, recognizing that dispossession of firearms during the pendency of a protective order would save lives. Today's decision confirms this is so, and we are excited to see we did not do this work in vain." Charmaine Caccioppi, United Way of Southeast Louisiana (UWSELA) COO and Executive Vice President, and Kim Sport, former UWSELA Board of Trustees Member and Public Policy Committee Chair.





YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LEGISLATION

UWSELA supported the development of policies that provide comprehensive, holistic supports to young people to ensure they can pursue stable, healthy, meaningful futures, including the provision of high-quality extracurricular, cultural, and recreational services, leadership support programming, and safe neighborhoods for youth.

ACT 435 (HB 578) by Rep. Rodney Lyons CORRECTIONS: Creates the Back on Track Youth Pilot Program.

ACT 124 (SB 183) by Sen. Gary Carter

JUVENILE JUSTICE: Requires an adjudicated child
to be offered education services, vocational training,
and counseling. (8/1/24)

SCR 20 by Sen. Royce Duplessis
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: Requests the
Department of Education and Workforce
Commission, along with local school boards and
chambers of commerce, to aggressively develop and
promote high quality, youth-serving apprenticeship
programs and work-based experiences for high
school students.













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SIGN UP FOR ACTION ALERTS

UnitedWaySELA.org/Advocate



United Way of Southeast Louisiana