

## DE Civics Standard 2b and 4b

Appointed by the Governor, the Delaware Council on Women served to inform the executive branch about issues regarding women's equality in the Delaware, propose possible solutions to inequality, and lobby on behalf of those solutions and issues. The passage below is from the "Annual Report of the Delaware Council for Women" sent to Russell W. Peterson on May 26, 1972.

### Legislation

The members of the Legislative Committee have:

1. Urged action by President Nixon: (a) to sign the childcare bill (HB6748) and (b) to publically endorse the Equal Rights Amendment (HJ Res. 208)
2. Adopted position papers endorsing the Equal Rights Amendment and The Equal Employment Opportunities Enforcement Act (S. 2515) which was delivered to our U.S. Senators.
6. Mailed Legislative Alert to forty women's organizations in Delaware urging members to contact their legislators...
7. Wrote each Senator on the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee urging a vote for the unamended version of the Equal Rights Amendment in Committee.

- "Annual Report of the Delaware Council for Women"

Sent to Russell W. Peterson on May 26, 1972.

1. What role do commissions engaged in examining public policy play in the political process? Use evidence from the source above to support your answer.

2. How did the Delaware Council for Women help citizens stay informed? Use evidence from the source above to support your answer.

3. How does the debate over the Equal Rights Amendment illustrate the dynamic process of government? Use evidence from the source above to support your answer.

**Answer Cues:**

1. What role do commissions engaged in examining public policy play in the political process? Use evidence from the source above to support your answer.

- Gather information about the topic and use it to form a position
- Communicate positions to the government agencies, lobbying groups, or the legislature

2. How did the Delaware Council for Women help citizens stay informed? Use evidence from the source above to support your answer.

- Communicated with the government and local citizens' groups about their position

4. How does the debate over the Equal Rights Amendment illustrate the dynamic process of government? Use evidence from the source above to support your answer.

- The push for the ERA was the result of changing societal values regarding women's status
- Although support for the ERA was the result of changing societal values regarding women's status, the need for it to be added through the amendment process shows how the Constitution constrains the dynamic nature of governance

5. Held meetings with Dr. Kirk, Superintendent of Schools in Newark, and with personnel administrators to discuss affirmative action in relation to hiring and promotion of women in the Newark Schools. (This particular district has no women as Principals or Vice-principals, and very few in administration.) This series of meetings is still in progress.

6. Met with Dr. Madden, State Superintendent, twice to discuss the aims of the Women's Council, policies in Delaware schools as they affect women, and most specifically, the need for improved guidance and career counseling for girls. Dr. Madden has asked us to develop plans for guidance personnel.

7. Presented a statement on Goals in Education at public hearings held by the Department of Public Instruction, McKean High School, February 28, 1972. We have since used this statement as informational material for many school personnel. It includes specific recommendations for Delaware schools.

8. Helped to publicize the lecture given by Dr. Florence Howe on Women's Studies, February 6, 1972, at the University of Delaware. We are continuing to support the growing program of women's studies there.

9. Sent letters to all school boards in regard to Student's Rights as they affect women students. We have attended some school board meetings on these issues.

10. Worked with the legislative committee to support legislation revising school policies on maternity leave for school personnel.

#### SPEAKERS BUREAU

Wishing to share our findings about women in the State of Delaware, the Speakers Bureau was organized. Initially Speakers' Training Session led by Roslyn Rettew was held on February 5, 1972 at the First Presbyterian Church in Newark. Individual members of the Council have been contacted by groups of which they are members and have gone out to share information we have found to be significant for women in Delaware. Groups so far contacted include the Quota Club of Wilmington, League of Women Voters of Wilmington and of Newark, the American Association of University Women (Wilmington and Newark Branches), Hercules Women's Club, Wilmington Kiwanis Club, Delta Kappa Gamma, etc. Letters making known our availability have been sent to women's organizations in the State, and others are still being contacted.

#### LEGISLATION

The members of the Legislative Committee have:

1. Urged action by President Nixon: (a) to sign the child-care bill (HR 6748) and (b) to publicly endorse the Equal Rights Amendment (HJ Res. 208)

2. Adopted position papers endorsing the Equal Rights Amendment and The Equal Employment Opportunities Enforcement Act (S.2515) which we



delivered to our U.S. Senators.

3. Adopted position paper urging emergency supplemental appropriations for AFDC by State of Delaware.

4. Adopted position paper endorsing State S.B. 372, amending the divorce law. Informed each member of the House Judiciary Committee of this position. (signed into law 2/5/72)

5. Lobbied for passage of H.B. 573, allowing more flexible maternity leaves for teachers. (signed into law 1/20/72)

6. Mailed Legislative Alert to forty women's organizations in Delaware urging members to contact their legislators concerning two items affecting the rights and opportunities of women: (a) the Equal Rights Amendment in the U.S. Senate, and (b) the bill to eliminate the psychiatric visitation requirement for abortion, S.S.1 for SB 535, in the Delaware House of Representatives.

7. Wrote each Senator on the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee urging a vote for the unamended version of the Equal Rights Amendment in Committee. (Vote was 15-1 in favor 2/29/72)

8. Wrote each State Representative concerning the need to pass S.S. 1 for S.B. 535.

9. Wrote U.S. Senators Boggs and Roth urging them to exert influence and cast their votes against any amendments to the Equal Rights Amendment. (passed Senate 3-22-72)

10. Sent informational news releases to major newspapers concerning 2,3,6,9.

This committee has continuously examined and watched the progress of national and state bills which would affect the rights and opportunities of women. Positions have been adopted on selected items and communicated these to legislators, women's organizations, and to the general public via the newspapers. We mobilized support among women for these items. Twice presidential action has been urged.

#### LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT TASK FORCE

This committee has collected data from the State Department of Labor so as to define the parameters of employment procedures and practices affecting women. Particular study has been devoted to job categories and wages.

Although funds are very limited to assist us in this area, the committee is endeavoring to act as a watchdog for non-discrimination notice posting.

Members of the committee have been speakers for organization meetings such as Church Women United, Quota Club of Wilmington, League of Women Voters and Wilmington Radio. Additional speaking engagements are scheduled. These are all carried out at the committee member's expense.

Conferences held include:

