



## PowHerNY Network 2026 Legislative Priorities

[PowHer NY](#) just celebrated its 10th Anniversary in 2025. The PowHer Network, one program of PowHer NY, brings together, through bi-weekly meetings, mutual education and collaborative action, over fifty statewide and regional organizations representing hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers who share a commitment to protecting and accelerating inclusive gender justice and economic equality in New York State.

Our 2026 legislative priorities range across a wide and diverse set of issues and challenges:

- **Care Economy** - Protecting and expanding access to quality, affordable care across the life span. Recognizing and justly rewarding the valuable work of providing this care for children, people with illnesses, people with disabilities, and older adults; and facilitating the stabilization and expansion of a critical workforce.
- **Health And Bodily Autonomy** - Ensuring all people have the right and ability to access quality, affordable health care; all women have the right to determine when, whether and how to become a parent.; and all individuals the right to gender affirming care. Expecting mothers should have access to quality, affordable and culturally appropriate maternal care, and the right to give birth in a safe, supportive environment. And the state should ensure the privacy of medical records.
- **Equal Pay/Fair Compensation** - Ensuring all working people are compensated fairly, with equal compensation for comparable work; and demanding transparency from employers regarding salary ranges and pay rates to strengthen the negotiating power of both employees and applicants.
- **Civil Rights for All** - Ensuring constitutional law is respected and promoting the dignity and human rights of all.
- **Gender Based Violence** - Ensuring continued and sustainable funding of domestic violence services. Reaching for preventive policy solutions that ensure the safety of the individual, and avoid recreating the carceral state and injustices that create violence.

This year, in the face of federal attempts to erase and distort our history and pull back progress toward equality, we collectively urge New York leaders to stand strong, address gaps in funding impacting critical services, make whole disrupted and failing systems, and continue moving forward toward opportunity and justice for all - especially for those from low-income, Black, brown, immigrant, and other historically marginalized communities.

We look forward to working with state leaders to address the roadblocks to economic justice and gender equity and to seize opportunities to help all New Yorkers to contribute and thrive.



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BUDGET ASKS		
Legislation	Description	Lead Organization
<b>Care Economy</b>		
<b>Child Care Funding</b> - <b>Workforce Compensation Fund</b> - <b>Child Care Assistance Program Funding \$1.2B</b>	To achieve universal child care, New York must invest in the child care workforce. Ongoing, publicly- funded compensation supplements are the only way to raise compensation without increasing tuition, which is already too high for most families to afford. A fairly-paid child care workforce is vital to ensure the continuity of care and nurturing, culturally-responsive interactions that children need to thrive.	<b>ESCCC</b> Soshana Hershkowitz shershkowitz@empirestatechildcare.org
<b>Long Term Care and Home Care</b> - <b>CDPAP Transparency Bill</b> <u>A.10537</u> (Gonzalez-Rojas) / <u>S.9142</u> (Comrie) / - <b>Home Care Savings &amp; Reinvestment Act (HCRSA)</b> <u>A.2018</u> (Paulin) / <u>S.2372</u> (Rivera)	Our home care system should ensure older and disabled New Yorkers can live at home on their own terms - not be forced into institutions. -Ensure oversight of our state's \$11 Billion contract with PPL and restore choice - The Home Care Savings & Reinvestment Act - Eliminate insurance middlemen who pocket billions while worsening the care crisis, save \$3 billion annually (\$25-32 billion over 10 years), reinvest savings directly into care: higher wages, better quality, continuity of care	<b>Caring Majority</b> Bobbie Sackman, bobbiesackman6@gmail.com
<b>Health And Bodily Autonomy</b>		
<b>Reproductive Health - Reproductive Freedom Equity Fund: \$30M (\$5m increase), including \$1M legislative add for New York Abortion Access Fund</b>	- \$30M in Funding for the Reproductive Freedom and Equity Program (RFEP) which has remained flat since its inception in 2022, despite the increasing attacks on abortion access and the rising costs of care. + \$1M in funding for the New York Abortion Access Fund (NYAAF).	<b>Planned Parenthood Empire State Acts</b> Georgana Hanson Georgana.Hanson@ppesacts.org
<b>Trans Health - Gender-Affirming Care Access Program \$8M</b> <u>A.8841</u> (Gonzalez-Rojas) / <u>S.7924</u> (Gonzalez)	Establishes a gender affirming care access program to provide direct financial support to providers of gender-affirming care, increasing access and reducing barriers to care. At a time of escalating hostile federal threats on transgender and nonbinary people, this program ensures New York continues to support this essential health care.	<b>Planned Parenthood Empire State Acts</b> Georgana Hanson Georgana.Hanson@ppesacts.org
<b>Health And Bodily Autonomy - Access for All Hospital Transparency</b> <u>A.10203</u> (Rozic) / <u>S.8965</u> (Hinchey)	Ensure that individuals have access to information about whether the hospital, or hospitals, in their area provides the care they seek prior to admission and to identify health care deserts in regions of the state.	<b>NYCLU</b> Allie Bohm abohm@nyclu.org
<b>Equal Pay/Fair Compensation</b>		
<b>2.7% Targeted Inflationary Increase (TII) for human services (#JustPay campaign)</b>	The #JustPay campaign advocates for government funding and systemic policy change to raise the wages of City and State-contracted human services workers.	<b>Human Services Council</b> Jessie Fay Parrott parrottjf@humanservicescouncil.org
<b>Gender Based Violence</b>		
<b>\$10M Emergency contingency fund for domestic violence services</b>	More than 90% of the funding New York uses to support DV services comes from the federal government. Over the past year, the federal government has taken several steps to eliminate or curtail the use of these funds. New York must create an emergency fund to ensure continuous access to domestic violence services for all who need them.	<b>NYSCADV</b> Joan Gerhardt JGerhardt@nyscadv.org



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LEGISLATIVE ASKS		
Legislation	Description	Lead Organization
<b>Health And Bodily Autonomy</b>		
<b>Protections for incarcerated women who are pregnant or in labor.</b> <a href="#">A.1670</a> (Rosenthal)/ <a href="#">S.2667</a> (Salazar)	Prohibits the use of restraints and force against incarcerated individuals during labor and after other pregnancy outcomes absent extraordinary circumstances and on pregnant persons during custodial interrogation.	<b>New Hour Long Island</b> Isabela Seda iseda@newhourli.org
<b>Protecting Coverage of Gender-Affirming Care</b> <a href="#">A.06596A</a> (Rosenthal)	Build on existing state protections for gender-affirming care by ensuring New York continues to provide Medicaid coverage regardless of federal threats or actions and would prohibit discrimination in private health insurance plans.	<b>NYCLU</b> Allie Bohm abohm@nyclu.org
<b>Healthy and Safe Students Act</b> <a href="#">A.7496</a> (Gonzalez-Rojas)/ <a href="#">S.6901</a> (Salazar)	Would require public and charter school students receive medically accurate, age-appropriate, inclusive comprehensive sex ed, including consent, healthy relationships, and disease prevention.	<b>Girls for Gender Equity</b> EG Downs egdowns@ggenyc.org
<b>New York Health Act</b> <a href="#">A.1466</a> (Paulin)/ <a href="#">S.3425</a> (Rivera)	Establish NYS single-payer health plan — to cover all residents for all necessary care.	<b>Campaign for NY Health</b> Melanie D'Arrigo (ED), melanie@nyhcampaign.org
<b>Maternity Health and Dignity Act</b> <a href="#">A.00860</a> (Rosenthal)/ <a href="#">S.00845</a> (Salazar)	Promotes trust between a pregnant or postpartum person and their healthcare provider by requiring informed consent for a drug, cannabis, or alcohol test or screen.	<b>NYCLU</b> Allie Bohm abohm@nyclu.org
<b>The CARE Act: Reproductive health access for incarcerated people</b> <a href="#">A.4879A</a> (Kelles)/ <a href="#">S.4583A</a> (Salazar)	The Care Act would establish a comprehensive statutory policy of human rights related to incarcerated pregnant/postpartum people in New York.	<b>New Hour Long Island</b> Isabela Seda iseda@newhourli.org
<b>Equal Pay/Fair Compensation</b>		
<b>Benefits Transparency Act</b> <a href="#">A.5906</a> (Bores)/ <a href="#">S.5990</a> (Ramos)	The legislation would expand the Salary Transparency Act which requires salary ranges in job postings to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Require benefits and non-wage compensation be included in job postings.</li> <li>-This will give jobseekers critical information for salary negotiations.</li> <li>-Allow current employees to ask about the salary range for their job title.</li> <li>-Clarify the definition of salary range to end broad ranges</li> <li>-Require job descriptions</li> </ul>	<b>NY Equal Pay Campaign</b> Beverly Neufeld Bev@powherny.org Seher Kawaja skhawaja@legalmomentum.org
<b>TDI Reform</b> <a href="#">A.9571</a> (Bronson)/ <a href="#">S.172</a> (Ramos)	Improvements to New York's paid medical leave benefit program (TDI) that ensures New Yorkers who need to take time off work for health needs aren't sacrificing economic security. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Job protection for workers on leave</li> <li>-Guaranteed health insurance continuation for workers on leave</li> <li>-Eliminating the \$170/week cap and bringing wage replacement up to 67% of the statewide average weekly wages.</li> <li>-Intermittent leave, for those requiring periodic treatment.</li> </ul>	<b>A Better Balance</b> Moriah Engleberg mengelberg@abetterbalance.org



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Civil Rights for All		
<b>Electronic Health Records Segmentation</b> <u>A.2613</u> (Lunsford)/ <u>S.1633</u> (Fernandez)	Provides additional protections for sensitive health information and requires patients to have the right to restrict the disclosures of such patient's health information.	<b>NYCLU</b> Allie Bohm abohm@nyclu.org
<b>New York Health Information Privacy Act</b> <u>S.9269</u> (Krueger)/(Rosenthal)	Will holistically protect New Yorkers' electronic health data as well as electronic health data generated in New York.	<b>NYCLU</b> Allie Bohm abohm@nyclu.org
<b>New York for All Act</b> <u>A.3506</u> (Reyes) / <u>S.2235</u> (Gounardes)	Bars law enforcement from collaborating with ICE and Border Patrol.	<b>NYCLU</b> Allie Bohm abohm@nyclu.org
<b>Solutions Not Suspensions Act</b> <u>A.118</u> (Solages)/ <u>S.134</u> (Jackson)	This bill would reform school discipline policies to ensure the application of fair and equitable school discipline for all students.	<b>Girls for Gender Equity</b> EG Downs egdowns@ggenyc.org
<b>Democracy During Detention Act</b> <u>A.2121</u> (Walker)/ <u>S.440</u> (Myrie)	This bill would codify the right to vote for citizens detained pretrial or for lesser offenses in correctional facilities who have not lost the right to vote and improve access to voting for incarcerated individuals.	<b>LWW</b> Clyanna Lightbourn Clyanna@lwwny.org
<b>Privacy in name and gender-marker changes</b> <u>(A.3925</u> Levine)	Makes court-ordered name and gender-marker changes presumptively private, just like any other name change (e.g. name changes through marriage, divorce, adoption, immigration, etc.).	<b>NYCLU</b> Allie Bohm abohm@nyclu.org
Gender Based Violence		
<b>Kyra's Law</b> <u>A.6194B</u> (Havesi)/ <u>S.5998</u> (Skoufis)	Prioritizes child safety in custody cases by mandating that courts consider child's health and safety as a paramount concern. Currently 100 co-sponsors.	<b>NYSCADV</b> Joan Gerhardt JGerhardt@nyscadv.org
<b>Workplace Protections for survivors of gender-based violence</b> <u>A.5606</u> (Lucas)/ <u>S.3371</u> (Persaud)	Strengthen existing workplace protections for survivors of gender-based violence, by ensuring that broader categories of survivors are covered and that survivors have access to broad and meaningful reasonable accommodations, beyond leave, to escape and address abuse while maintaining their financial security.	<b>Legal Momentum</b> Seher Kawaja skhawaja@legalmomentum.org

### PowHer NY Partner Organizations:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Better Balance</li> <li>AAUW NYS</li> <li>Alliance for Quality Education</li> <li>Ancient Song Doula Services</li> <li>BKForge: Brooklyn for Repro &amp; Gender Equity</li> <li>Caring Majority Rising</li> <li>Center for the Women of NY</li> <li>CWA Local 1180</li> <li>Day Care Council of New York, Inc</li> <li>Equal Rights Advocates</li> <li>Illuminate</li> <li>Empire State Campaign for Child Care</li> <li>Equal Pay Coalition</li> <li>Erie County Commission on the Status of Women</li> <li>Gender Equality Law Center</li> <li>Girls for Gender Equity</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H2Growth Strategies</li> <li>Hand in Hand: Domestic Employers Network</li> <li>Her Justice</li> <li>Human Services Council</li> <li>Invest in Our NY</li> <li>Justice Strike Force</li> <li>League of Women Voters NYC</li> <li>League of Women Voters NYS</li> <li>League of Women Voters, Pt Washington</li> <li>League of Women Voters, St. Lawrence County</li> <li>Legal Momentum</li> <li>MomsRising/MamásConPoder</li> <li>National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs-NYC</li> <li>New Hour L.I.</li> <li>New York Civil Liberties Union</li> <li>New York Equal Pay Campaign</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New York Health Act Campaign</li> <li>New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence</li> <li>New York Women's Foundation</li> <li>NY Health Act Campaign</li> <li>NY Women's Foundation</li> <li>NYLAG (New York Legal Assistance Group)</li> <li>PHI</li> <li>Planned Parenthood Empire State Acts</li> <li>SAG-AFTRA</li> <li>Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy</li> <li>Sister to Sister International (STSI)</li> <li>Westchester Women's Agenda</li> <li>Women Creating Change</li> <li>Women of Color in Fundraising and Philanthropy</li> <li>WNY Women's Foundation</li> <li>YWCA Western New York</li> <li>Zonta Club of Greater Queens</li> </ul> |
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