



E VENT CALENDAR **2017**

- **May 12**—We Still Want Health care protest in Asheville, noon, FOB.
- **May 17** - 7pm, Why do people risk their lives to get to US as immigrants? 2017 Southeast Speaking Tour. United Fair Economy. Durham.
- **May 22**—6:30pm Charlotte—hear Margaret Flowers, MD, speak on national improved Medicare for all.
- **May 23**—6pm Women in Politics Town Hall with Lillian's List—Raleigh
- **May 25**—6:30pm Independent Judiciary Town Hall—Raleigh
- **Jun 3**—Get Elected Locally training with Lillian's List in Winston-Salem
- **June 7**—gender inequality following the May documentary—Charlotte.
- **Jun 17**—Feminist 5K. run/walk/roll to/from Chavis Park in Raleigh.
- **Jun 19**—Screening “13”, Fayetteville NOW, at Headquarters Library.
- **Jun 30-Jul 2**—National NOW Conference in Orlando. Elections.

Local NOW chapter monthly mtgs

Asheville NOW—second Sundays at 3pm. Email: nowaville@gmail.com

Charlotte NOW—contact them for next ones—email: cltnow@yahoo.com

Durham NOW—7pm, the second Tuesday of each month. Starbucks at 54/55. Email: henryesthe@aol.com

Fayetteville NOW—7pm, third Tuesdays, Quaker House on Hillside Ave. Email: heq57@aol.com

Raleigh NOW—7:15pm, the first Tuesdays, 2912 Highwoods Blvd, in back. Email: president@raleighnow.org

Triad NOW—7pm, first Tuesdays in Winston-Salem, NC. email: president@triadnow.org

Crystal Coast NOW: starting soon! Contact president@raleighnow.org.

NC Senate's Action Despicable **By Gailya Paliga, 5/18/17**

North Carolina Senate leader Phil Berger showed himself to be unfit to lead the Senate by causing, or even allowing, outrageous retaliation by cutting funding for educational programs in counties represented by Democrats. Regarding the May 15 editorial "[N.C. GOP lawmakers go over the top out of anger](#)": "Given the power they possess, Republicans don't need to engage in this kind of behavior. They have the votes and the control to do as they wish. But in this case, they made very bad choices," the article stated.

The May 14 Under The Dome article, "[At 3 a.m., NC Senate GOP strips education funding from Democrats' districts](#)," stated that the GOP targeted seven counties represented by Senators Erica Smith-Ingram and Angela Bryant.

The GOP stripped over a million dollars in education funds, including \$316,646 from cutting early college high schools and a STEM program in the poor rural areas in Eastern NC (in those Senators districts). They also made cuts to the NC Museum of Art and downtown revitalization, among other things.

As [Chris Fitzsimon wrote for NC Policy Watch](#) on May 16, "Senator Berger and his fellow bullies were willing to punish students and schools in North Carolina because their Democratic colleagues made them stay up late and defend the budget they unveiled only a few days before. "

What immature, retaliatory behavior. This is bullying, not leadership. Despicable. (N&O ran shorter version on 5/18/17)

Seems like every day includes a new outrage—both from Trump and Congress (repealing ACA) or from NC's out of control Legislature (e.g. power grabs that cause lawsuits, passing bills in the middle of the night, targeting public education, actually taking education money from specifically Democratic women's districts)!

Good people are paying attention & standing up against cruel legislation, and against the wanton slashing of funding for institutions like health care and education and Science. See why Science is a women's issue in 'Women in Science' on pg 3. [Science march included in upcoming events](#).

NOW is also involved in educational & fun events—our Feminist 5k in Raleigh on 6/17/17 (pg 3). Read about the March Advocacy training (pg 2). Look for another training in late July.

There are many ways you can make a difference. Joining and staying a member of NC NOW is the easiest—membership form on pg 6. Join an existing chapter or make your own chapter and start learning together and planning education or protest events. See what some chapters have been doing on pg 2. [Upcoming events](#) are listed on the NC NOW website.

Stay up to date through email, our [NC NOW website](#) and facebook pages, [NC NOW](#) and chapters. Give email when join or signup online.

What's been going on...



Charlotte NOW

Melba Evans represented Charlotte NOW at the Healthcare Justice NC "Medicare for All" rally and press conference in front of Carolina Medical Center Main in Charlotte on 4/8/17. Evans spoke about some of the advantages for women in a Medicare for ALL healthcare plan. Other speakers represented League of Women Voters, Charlotte Women's March, Physicians for National Health Plan, NAACP, and Action NC.

Photo Credit: Chlt NOW



Charlotte NOW

There was a great turn-out for Feminist Exploration Day at UNC-Charlotte on April 19, 2017, sponsored by UNC-Charlotte Women and Gender Studies Program. The event included a resource fair and breakout sessions. Charlotte NOW had been invited to inform students and faculty about NC NOW.



Photo Credit: Melba Evans

"Happy to see so many young people engaged in issues of equality & justice. Many males attended the event in support of challenges & issues that women face today." -Melba Evans

More on the website at "[April Activities with Charlotte NOW, 2017.](#)"

Fayetteville NOW—Tax Day Protest (4/15/17)

Fay. NOW cosponsored a silent, non-violent protest on April 15th, 2017 at the Market House in downtown Fayetteville. The protest went from noon to 1:00 p.m. They did so to express their disappointment in this President's continuous refusal to disclose his personal tax returns and to air other concerns with this administration.

About 25 people showed up with handmade signs or carried NOW signs. The request was for people to make



Photo Credit: Pam Wade

appropriate signs expressing their sentiments, as this was a family friendly protest, with "young activists in training," as you can see in the picture.

The protest was silent and peaceful.

- Roberta Waddle

NC NOW Event: Equal Pay Day at Johnston County Community College—4/7/17

NC NOW's Gailya Paliga and [volunteer Alfonso Cristobal](#) presented on the Gender Wage Gap and Equal Pay Day. The gender pay gap is the average difference between a man's and a woman's total wages or salaries. Slides showed women's earnings at around 60% of men's from 1960 to early 1980s. Then starts going up slowly, flattened around 2010. It is now around 80%.

Equal Pay Day symbolizes how far into the year women must work to earn what men earned in the previous year. The wage gap is even greater for most women of color.

- Asian-American Women's Equal Pay Day was in Mar (85% - higher than women on average)
- African American women have to work to Jul 31, b/c they make 63% of what white men make.
- For Native American women, it's Sept. 23 (59%)
- Latinas equal pay day isn't until Nov. 2. (54%)
- [Mothers' Equal Pay Day](#) fell on May 23, 2017.

NC NOW—3/31/17. Many NC NOW members were honored at [VFA event in Durham](#). Leading Historian Nancy MacLean was keynote. Event goal to ensure that the full story of the women's movement of the '60s and '70s is told to current day historians who are researching, writing & teaching about it.

NC NOW—3/28/17—[Second Advocacy 101 training in Raleigh](#). Training topics included citizen advocacy, finding your representatives, lobbying tips, about the NCGA, writing and talking to elected officials, LTEs, protest tips. **Want to have a training near you?** Email president@raleighnow.org. Hoping to have a third Advocacy training toward the end of July, maybe Saturday, July 22 or Tuesday, July 25, 2017.

Asheville NOW—NOT okay to throw rocks at girls, 3/26/17

Asheville NOW did a protest against Spicer Greene Jewelers, whose billboard said, "**Sometimes, it's ok to throw rocks at girls!**" Nice protest, but the best thing to come out of this is South African literature specialist Laura Wright's op-ed about history of diamonds, slavery, and violence against women. "How [diamonds] are implicated in a racist and sexist legacy that's all about commodification and property is worth knowing." See "[The unfunny history behind 'throwing rocks at girls'](#)" in Citizen Times. [Taken Down](#).

Durham NOW—Equal Means Equal - 3/26/17

[Durham NOW showed the documentary of Equal Means Equal](#) at Duke University's Ahmadiieh Family Lecture Hall, at Smith Warehouse Bay 4, C105. The screening was followed by discussion of women's rights and the need for ERA. The only right guaranteed for women in the constitution is the right to vote!

Science is a Women's Issue

By Andrea Azcarate and Shana Becker, 4/22/17

Historically, science has provided keys to eliminating sexist, racist, and environmentally damaging policies. But science is under attack: President Trump conflates scientific fact with matters of opinion, and has moved to slash funding to education, healthcare, research, and environmental protections. Women are on the front-lines of this assault.

Educating girls and women in sciences is essential to overcome threats to our health and environment. If women are not at the table, then neither will be women's interests and needs - think reproductive healthcare, environmental threats that disproportionately affect women and unborn children, and diseases that afflict only women. Today, women make up only 29% of the STEM workforce, and Trump proposes no initiatives to promote women in sciences. On the contrary, his budget proposal guts federal education spending by \$9 billion.

To make matters worse, women who enter the STEM workforce face significant wage gaps. According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2013 American Community Survey, women in computer and mathematical sciences were paid thirteen percent less than their male counterparts for the same work. And Forbes reported that in the health sciences, the difference is even greater. Women cardiologists, for example, are paid 29% less than male cardiologists. Instead of addressing the problem, the Trump administration has deleted any reference to the wage gap from its website.

The White House's proposed budget also slashes the National Institutes of Health's spending by \$5.8 billion. Without public support, only the most profitable ailments will be researched by companies. Healthcare innovation will be based on profit instead of need. Think Rogaine and Viagra over treatment of PCOS - an under-researched and devastating disease affecting millions of women - or a cure for breast cancer.

The Trump Administration's approach to women's healthcare is especially alarming. A recent executive order allows funding for services related to breast and cervical cancer screening, fertility, pregnancy care,

Contraception and treatment for sexually transmitted infections to be cut depending on whether other medical care - abortions - are available from the medical provider.

The greatest threat to science and women, however, is global warming. Climate change deniers - who erroneously maintain that science is an opinion rather than a process for determining facts - are making environmental policy. The executive orders aimed to roll back environmental regulations signed by the president will expedite global warming and the destruction of our air and water quality. If we do not fight for science and for women in science, then all of humanity will pay a grave price.

- Andrea Azcarate, Scientist and Organizer Women's March On Raleigh & Women Mobilize NC
- Shana Becker, Organizer Women's March On Raleigh & Women Mobilize NC



Raleigh Science March 4/11/17

Photo Credit: Gailya Paliga



The Feminist 5k in Raleigh on June 17, 2017 is an opportunity to run or walk with feminist sisters and brothers, and to increase the visibility of feminism in our culture. You can sign up

at www.feminist5k.org. Proceeds benefit the Women's Center of Wake County.

There is a \$5 discount for NC NOW members. Use the Promotion Code "NC NOW." Kids 12 and under are free. Come run/walk/roll with us.

The Women's Center of Wake County, Inc. is a multi-services resource center that addresses the challenging issues of poverty and homelessness for single women and women with families.



Crazy things that you may have missed or forgotten over the past few weeks.

Pro-rape Representative from New Hampshire was exposed.

A New Hampshire Representative was exposed as the founder of a men's rights misogyny and pro-rape group. [Bonnie Bacarisse of The Daily Beast](#) discovered that Republican Rep. Robert Fisher (R-NH) is in fact the founder of the "Red Pill," a men's rights misogyny group based on the online forums Reddit and 4chan."

Daily Beast found him out, tracking many user names back to him. Bacarisse published the article on 4/25/17.

"He blasted women for their "sub-par intelligence." He said that women's personalities are "lackluster and boring, serving little purpose in day to day life." And Fisher once commented, "It is literally the [female] body that makes enduring these things worth it." "

Fisher, who is 31 years old and the son of a preacher, has also said shocking things about women and rape. According to PoliticalD!G, "[GOP Lawmaker Just Got Outed As The Founder Of Popular Pro-Rape Group](#),"

Fisher wrote, under the username FredFredrickson, "I'm going to say it—Rape isn't an absolute bad, because the rapist I think probably likes it a lot. I think he'd say it's quite good, really."

New Hampshire's Legislative Administrative Committee held a public hearing on Tuesday, May 9, at which time the public could comment and Fisher could respond to allegations in an open forum. Not surprisingly, Fisher was "[lambasted by women](#)", <http://www.concordmonitor.com/robert-fisher-defends-himself-in-legislative-hearing-9751113>, 5/9/17. Article also says:

"[A] handful of committee members audibly gasped when advocate Amanda Grady Sexton read an online comment Fisher allegedly made saying *the only things one needs for rape are "roofies" & "duct tape."*

"These statements are not 'injudicious'; they are a blatant promotion of sexual assault," said Grady Sexton, director of public affairs for the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

Action: Stop AHCA/Trumpcare NOW! Here is how..

The American Health Care Act (AHCA)/Trumpcare bill that the Republicans forced through the US House on 5/4/17 is devastating.

"This bill will put women directly in harm's way by making health care inaccessible to people with pre-existing conditions--including those who have survived domestic violence, experienced postpartum depression, or undergone a cesarean section. " As NOW.org wrote in their suggested email action at <http://now.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/AHCAEmailYourSenators.pdf>.

Congress' own Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated that 24 million people would lose health insurance from the plan. This estimate is from the March 2017 version of the bill that was not put up for a vote (due to expected failure), and the current plan (May 2017) is only worse. Read more about the harm this plan would do at <https://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/115th-congress-2017-2018/costestimate/americanhealthcareact.pdf>. Vox.com provided a more readable description of the damage this bill does.

"These are all the people the Republican health care bill will hurt," 5/4/17, at <https://www.vox.com/2017/5/4/15542990/republican-health-bill-ahca-medicaid-victims>. This article shows 11 main groups that will be negatively affected if this legislation becomes law, and says this is 'a few of the main groups.' The list includes working poor, seniors, pregnant women and new mothers, Planned Parenthood patients (many students and low income earners), people and children with pre-existing conditions.

Meanwhile, AHCA provides another tax break for households making \$250,000 a year or more. See how to contact Senators Burr and Tillis at <https://northcarolinanow.wordpress.com/2015/04/06/how-to-contact-ncs-us-senators-burr-and-tillis/>.

Suggested letter content at <http://now.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/AHCAEmailYourSenators.pdf>. But feel free to use your own story—there are plenty of other great points to include.

What's up with ERA, HB2? [NC NOW's 9th Legislative Update](#) tells you.

-by Robin Davis, NC NOW VP Legislation and Lobbyist

ERA YES!

[Nevada ratified the Equal Rights Amendment](#) (ERA) on 3/21/17! The re-introduction of the ERA for ratification in various state legislatures (including North Carolina) is part of the “three-state strategy” for ratification (although now [after Nevada] it has become a two-state strategy).

This has brought new interest to ratifying ERA across the nation. North Carolina already had introduced bills to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment both Houses of the North Carolina legislature, and NC NOW is working to spur action on these bills.

The ERA NC Alliance, which includes NC NOW, held a Women's Mobilization Monday on Monday, March 27, to advocate for ratification of the ERA. Events included a press conference at 3:00 pm in the General Assembly Press Room and supporters assembling in the House gallery at 6:30 pm where they were recognized. There must have been 70 women present at 7pm. Lots of press went to Press Conference at 3pm.

You can take action by contacting members of the House and Senate Rules Committee to tell them to take up House Bill 102 or Senate Bill 85. Follow this link to find out what to do and who to contact:
<http://www.nc4era.org/alerts.html>



Lori Bunton Speaking.
Photo Credit: Lori Bunton

See [Legislative Update #9](#).

HB 2

The law known as HB2 has been repealed—but it is not a clean repeal. Culminating weeks of behind-the-scenes negotiations, the repeal of HB2 was just as sudden as its passage. An unrelated bill (HB142), which had already passed the House, was stripped of its original contents in the Senate, passed by the Senate, sent to the House for concurrence, and signed by the Governor in a matter of hours.

The new law repeals HB2, which means that North Carolinians using restrooms, showers, or changing

HB 2 Continued

rooms in government facilities are no longer required to use the facilities that match the gender on their birth certificate. With no explicit law on the subject, North Carolinians may use the restroom they choose.

With the repeal of the law known as HB2, that law's ban on local LGBT ordinances is no longer in effect, and these local ordinances are once again in effect. The exception is Charlotte, which repealed its LGBT ordinance with its specific bathroom provisions. It is generally accepted that local nondiscrimination policies bar businesses that discriminate from contracting with local governments also are restored.

But there is bad news, too. The new law gives the General Assembly the sole authority to legislate on restrooms, showers, and changing rooms. In addition, there is a moratorium on state entities, such as universities, or local governments passing or amending policies or ordinances regulating public accommodations until the new law expires on December 1, 2020—that is, just after the 2020 elections.

Civil rights groups have strongly condemned Governor Cooper for backing down from his position advocating a clean repeal of HB 2 since this new law perpetuates discrimination until it expires. Hard-line supporters of HB2 are also outraged because there is a time limit on discrimination in the new law. The NCAA has announced that it is satisfied with the new law and will accept bids for championship games from North Carolina locations. It is not yet clear if other businesses that have avoided North Carolina will follow suit.

The ACLU and other parties to the lawsuits around HB2 are seeking to amend their filings to take into account the new law, arguing that it



Photo Credit: Harry Lynch N&O
HB2 protest, 4/2/16

clearly discriminates against transgender people because it offers them no protections whatsoever.

Raleigh NOW
National Organization for Women
PO Box 25331
Raleigh, NC 27611

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*Feminist 5K on 6/17/17.
Advocacy event in Raleigh in late July.*

northcarolinanow.wordpress.com/ www.now.org email: president@raleighnow.org

Be sure to "Like" NC NOW National Organization for Women on Facebook!

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Count me in! I want to join NOW and commit myself to take action: to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all privileges and responsibilities in a truly equal partnership with men. Mailing label says if it's time.

Name: _____
(Former/Returning member, different name/city?) _____
Address: _____ City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____
*(Important!) E-mail: _____

I want to affiliate* with my local NOW chapter. (signature) _____
(*Affiliation with a chapter assures that you will receive local newsletters and special notices.)
● Annual Dues: \$35 (\$15-\$34 -- student / limited income.
NOW does not wish to exclude members because of income.)

(Annual dues include membership in NOW, at the National, State and local Chapter levels)
 I want to make a donation to Raleigh NOW _____ or NC NOW _____ (check which)
Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Mail this form and dues to: Raleigh NOW, PO Box 25331, Raleigh, NC 27611