



## **North Carolina NOW Legislative Update—11 February 2019**

The war on women’s reproductive rights has begun with the introduction of two threatening bills.

The first is HB 22, misnamed the Woman’s Right to Know Act. This bill would require a physician to misinform a woman seeking a medical abortion that the procedure is reversible—something not supported by any scientific study. The so-called “reversal” procedure is successful in fewer than half of the cases and may be only slightly more effective than not following through with the second step of the two-step procedure. Long-term effects are not known. For more information: see <https://slate.com/technology/2018/04/abortion-reversal-seems-possible-but-we-shouldnt-promote-it.html>.

The second bill (HB28) would ban all abortions after 13 weeks. North Carolina law presently bans abortion after 20 weeks. If passed, it would be the most restrictive law not blocked by a court injunction. For more information, see <https://www.wral.com/gop-seeks-new-abortion-restrictions-in-nc/18174574/>.

Last session did not address abortion bills, and it is not clear if there would be enough votes this session to override a veto by the governor. We will monitor both bills closely, and prochoice advocates should contact their legislators to let them know that they oppose both bills.

There is good news, too, this week. A bill (HB29) has been introduced to require testing of the backlog of more than 15,000 untested rape kits statewide and seeking funding to begin the process. For more background information, see <https://www.newsobserver.com/news/politics-government/state-politics/article225192005.html>

An important bill (HB37) addresses a serious problem for women and men who suffered sexual abuse as children by extending the statute of limitations for filing a civil suit until the victim reaches the age of 45.

There is also a significant bill (HB41) that addresses domestic violence by establishing a pilot program allowing the use of a GPS tracking device on a person who has committed acts of domestic violence and appropriates funds.

Two bills address the Silent Sam Confederate monument controversy. The first (SB19=HB10) would repeal the 2015 law that prohibits removing

Confederate monuments and transferring them to another location. The second bill (HB20)

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would authorize the UNC Chancellor to remove a monument from the campus and transfer it to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to be placed in a cemetery for Confederate soldiers.

## **Senate Bills**

SB3/HB5: An Act to Close the Medicaid Coverage Gap

1/31/2019: Senate Rules

SB9: Female Genital Mutilation Clarify/Prohibition: Makes it a Class C felony to mutilate female genitals or for a parent or guardian to cause or consent to female genital mutilation of a minor.

1/31/2019: Filed

SB19/HB10: Repeal 2015 Law Pertaining to Monuments: Repeals law that prohibits removal of historical (i.e., Confederate) monuments.

02/05/2019: Rules

## **House Bills**

HB5/SB3: An Act to Close the Medicaid Coverage Gap

Expands Medicaid coverage and includes a Medicaid Coverage Gap Assessment that will require hospitals to pay the state share of the program and administrative costs associated with the program.

1/31/2019: Health; if favorable, Appropriations; if favorable, Rules

HB10/SB19: Repeal 2015 Law Pertaining to Monuments: Repeals law that prohibits removal of historical (i.e., Confederate) monuments.

01/31/2019: State and Local Government; if favorable, Judiciary; if favorable, Rules

HB 20: Remove Silent Sam: Authorizes the Chancellor to remove a monument from the University campus and transfer it to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to be placed in a cemetery for Confederate soldiers.

02/05/2019: State and Local Government; if favorable, Education; if favorable, Rules

HB22: Woman's Right to Know/Ashley's Law: Requires a physician administering a medical abortion to inform the patient that the procedure is

reversible—a claim that is not supported by scientific evidence. For background and more

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information see: <https://www.newsweek.com/pregnancy-center-claims-you-can-reverse-medical-abortions-you-cant-doctors-say-872369>

02/06/2018: House Judiciary; if favorable, Health; if favorable, Rules

HB28: Prohibit Abortions after 13 Weeks: Revises North Carolina Law to prohibit abortion after 13 weeks. The current law prohibits abortion after 20 weeks.

02/06/2019: House Judiciary; if favorable, Health; if favorable, Rules

HB29: Standing Up for Rape Victims (Survivors) Act of 2019: Requires testing of all untested rape kits statewide to eliminate the inventory of untested rape kits and appropriated \$3 million dollars each year of the biennium 2019-2021 to begin testing.

02/07/2019: Judiciary; if favorable, Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety; if favorable, Appropriations; if favorable, Rules

HB37: Child Sex Abuse/Extend Statute of Limitations: Extends the statute of limitations for filing a civil suit for child sexual abuse so that a plaintiff has until age 45 to commence an action.

02/07/2019: House Judiciary Subcommittee on Criminal Matters; if favorable, Rules

HB41: Allison's Law/GPS Tracking/DV/Funds: Establishes a pilot program allowing the use of GPS tracking device on a person who has committed acts of domestic violence and appropriates funds.

02/07/2019: Filed