STATE OF HAWAI’I
WOMEN’S LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS PACKAGE

"SERVICE AND SACRIFICE"
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What is the Women's Legislative Caucus?

The Women's Legislative Caucus was created over twenty years ago, and is comprised of all of the female legislators in both the House and the Senate of the Hawaii State Legislature. Each year, the Women's Legislative Caucus meets to create a package of bills relevant to the condition and welfare of women in the State of Hawaii. The bills are voted upon by members of the Caucus, and bills that are approved by 75% of the Caucus become the contents of the Caucus package.

In addition to producing the Legislative package, the Women's Legislative Caucus is involved in supporting community organizations. Each year the Caucus holds an Easter basket drive that benefits clients of the Institute for Human Services. The Women's Legislative Caucus has also been at the forefront of community outreach to educate women on cervical cancer prevention.

The members of the Women's Legislative Caucus are proud to say that, despite differences in opinion on some issues, caucus members have maintained a viable organization over many years in the Hawaii State Legislature. Working together, we hope to foster better understanding of the role that women play in our state and to improve the quality of life for our people.

The Women's Legislative Caucus is honored to dedicate their 2012 package to the brave women veterans who have served our country abroad, and continue to live with courage at home, despite the many trials they face post-deployment.
"Service and Sacrifice"

Women have a proud history of military service to our beloved country. Although they have not always served on the battlefield, women have been subject to the rigors of wartime from time immemorial.

As female presence on the battlefield becomes more widespread and women prove themselves physically capable of serving alongside their fellow soldiers, a disturbing trend of harassment against women has been brought to light. Sexual assault has grown more pervasive among troops, and a disproportionate number of these shameful acts go unreported by victims who are fearful of retaliation by the very soldiers from whom they expect protection in times of combat.

"[In 2010] 3,158 sexual crimes were reported within the US military. Of those cases, only 529 reached a courtroom, and only 104 convictions were made, according to a 2010 report from SAPRO (Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, a division of the Department of Defense)... The same report estimated that there were a further 19,000 unreported cases of sexual assault [in 2010]" (Broadbent, 2011).

"3,158 sexual crimes were reported within the US military... The same report estimated that there were a further 19,000 unreported cases of sexual assault [in 2010].

There is a sad dearth of support for such women, who are discouraged from reporting rape or sexual assault under the threat of being labeled "unpatriotic" and having their career prospects within the military irreparably harmed. Women soldiers courageous enough to make their assault known to the military authorities are often met with hazing by friends of her attacker. Military "justice" is reluctant to acknowledge such crimes with prosecution, believing it detrimental to the morale of an overwhelmingly male organization.

"'They don't tell you to look for evidence,' says Greg Jacob, [a former military captain]. Instead, they hand over a manual for courts martial, which explains, among other things, that the investigating officer should consider, first and foremost, 'the character and military service of the accused'" (Ellison, 2011).
Woefully, women who are the victims of rape find themselves unable to access the military healthcare system to obtain an abortion, even if the procedure is paid for with their own financial resources. In 2011, a proposed amendment to the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act by New Hampshire Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, which would have afforded military rape victims the same rights to insured abortion procedures in the case of rape or incest as their civilian counterparts, was bypassed by the U.S. Senate.

The unique struggles faced by women soldiers abroad resurface at home, as women veterans must assimilate back into civilian life while coping with the depression, fearfulness, and anger associated with post-MST (military sexual trauma). The surging number of homeless female veterans in the past several years is sad indication of the traumas endured during deployment. Many newly homeless veterans are single mothers.

The Women's Legislative Caucus of the State of Hawaii would like to showcase the difficulties of women veterans who served are returning home to find a lack of appropriate service for women. We wish to showcase the brave work of women veterans and will introduce several resolutions in their support.

Sources:

The Fisher House Foundation

The Fisher House program is a unique private-public partnership that supports America’s military families in their time of need. Members of the military and their families are stationed worldwide and must often travel great distances for specialized medical care. The Fisher House Foundation builds and donates homes on the grounds of major military and VA medical centers. These homes enable family members to be close to a loved one during stressful times- hospitalization for an unexpected illness, disease or injury.

Since its establishment in 1990, the program has made available nearly 3.6 million days of lodging to 142,000 families. Best of all, no family pays to stay at any Fisher House. In addition to constructing new homes, the Fisher Foundation also supports existing houses and sponsors several scholarships benefiting service members and individuals in their family.

In Hawaii, the Tripler Army Medical Center hosts two Fisher Houses under the management of Theresa Johnson. Founded in 1994, the Tripler Fisher Houses provide services for the entire Pacific region and have housed thousands of military families. Staff and volunteers help create a nurturing home like atmosphere with annual events such as Founder’s Day, celebrating founder Zachary Fisher’s birthday with a luau and local entertainment.

For more information on the Fisher House Foundation and its programs, please visit: http://www.fisherhouse.org/ or call (808) 433-1291 for Tripler Fisher House.

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The Fisher House Foundation

Facts at a Glance

Fisher Houses
- There are 54 Fisher Houses located in the United States and Germany.
- Typically, the houses are 5,000 to 16,000 square foot homes donated by Fisher House Foundation.
- Each house is designed to provide eight to 21 suites. All are professionally furnished and decorated in the tone and style of the local region.

Since Inception (1990):
- Families served: More than 142,000
- Number of lodging days offered: over 3.5 million
- Saved families more than $165 million in lodging and transportation cost

Fisher House Foundation facilitates several major programs that help improve the lives of military families, including:

- **Hero Miles** Allows donated frequent flyer miles to be used to bring family members to the bedside of injured service-members.

- **Scholarships for Military Children** A grant program that provides scholarships to children of military families.

- **Newman’s Own Award** A grant program that supports other military charities.

Ratings:
- Four stars (out of four) from Charity Navigator
- A+ from American Institute of Philanthropy

2010 Highlights:
- Families served: Approximately 12,000
- Average length of stay: 15 days
- Average (combat casualties): 45-60 days
- Average occupancy level: 87%
- Saved families more than $16 million in lodging cost, plus food and transportation

Source: bhttp://www.fisherhouse.org/about/
Chelsea Ann K. E. Fernandez,
Mother, Student, Entrepreneur
And Woman Veteran

"It was always in my heart to help the disabled."

Chelsea grew up working on Kubo Ranch, a family farm on the beautiful island of Hawaii, where she learned all about hard work, caring for animals and appreciating country living. At the age of 17, she joined the U.S Army Reserve and during her time in the military, she served one tour to Iraq in 2004. Chelsea graduated from the University of Hawaii, Maui with an AAS in Business in addition to earning certificates in Entrepreneurship, Management, Marketing, and Accounting. She continues to pursue higher education.

Currently, Chelsea is the President and co-founder of FernanTECH, Inc.; an information technology company based in Kahului, Maui. She has recently moved this company in another direction by opening a new branch called Hawaii Assistive Technology Company (HATCO). HATCO's mission will be to provide our disabled and/or impaired community the chance to live independently by bringing in new technologies to aid the differently-abled in their day-to-day living.

Chelsea also serves as the Treasurer of the Maui Lions Club; an organization whose mission is to empower volunteers to serve their communities and help encourage those who are deaf and blind. In her spare time she enjoys watching movies and going camping with her husband and three wonderful children.
As we recently celebrated Veterans Day and are mindful of the service given to our nation by members of our armed forces, disabled Iraq veteran and entrepreneur, Chelsea Ann K.E. Fernandez, is fulfilling a dream of serving the disabled community of Maui. The president and co-founder of FernanTECH Inc., Fernandez and her husband, Joey, are opening a new branch called Hawaii Assistive Technology Company. Its mission will be to provide people with disabilities a chance to live independently with the use of technology. “It was always in my heart to help the disabled,” Fernandez said.

At age 14, Fernandez, a graduate of Hilo High School, saw her two-month-old sister die in part because of complications from both physical deformities and Down syndrome. Fernandez said she vowed that she would do what she could in her adult years to support impaired youth and adults. Her vision is to find technological devices that assist the deaf, the blind and the disabled in everyday living, concentrating on education and communication. “The range is so wide,” she said, adding that products could include walking canes for the blind and iPads for autistic children. Fernandez was diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Syndrome Disorder as a result of her service in the U.S. Army Reserve and a tour in Iraq. Following her year of military service in 2004, she moved to Maui in 2006 and established FernanTECH Inc. She also earned an associate degree in business from the University of Hawaii Maui College and earned certificates in entrepreneurship, management, marketing and accounting.

The current treasurer of the Maui Lions Club, Fernandez has made connections with the group that empowers volunteers to encourage the deaf and the blind. Fernandez also started the Maui Deaf Club and she’s partnered with the Hawaii Independent Living Center on Maui and a panel of service providers for the disabled to learn more about the community she wants to serve. She has invested some $10,000 in educating herself about the needs of the disabled including registering for a February 2012 international conference sponsored by the California State University. “I really want to do this,” Fernandez said.
MANY VOICES ONE VISION

Chelsea Ann K.E. Fernandez, is a disabled veteran and co-founder of FernanTECH, Inc., whose mission is to provide people with disabilities a chance to live independently with the use of technology, especially in the realms of education and communication.

"It was always in my heart to help the disabled."

FOCUS MAUI NUI

PROGRESS BUILT ON COMMUNITY VALUES

FOCUS MAUI NUI is a values-based, community-driven vision for the future of Maui County. VISIT FocusMauiNui.com or CALL 808.270.6806
Military Women in the Media

Shaheen Amendment to Restore Abortion Coverage for Military Rape Victims Bypassed In Senate

Laura Bassett
labassett@huffingtonpost.com
First Posted: 11/30/11 05:29 PM ET Updated: 12/1/11 09:40 AM ET

Despite pervasive sexual assault in the U.S. military, women who become pregnant as a result of rape while serving in the military are denied abortion coverage under their health plans -- a policy that will remain in place, the Senate decided on Wednesday.

Under current policy, pregnant women in the military are only able to use their insurance plans to pay for abortions if their lives are at risk. Civilians who work for the government or rely on Medicaid, by contrast, can use their insurance to pay for abortions in cases of rape and incest as well. Even rape survivors in federal prisons receive government-funded abortion coverage.

"They are fighting to protect our rights, and they should have the same rights to reproductive health care as our civilian employees."

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.) introduced an amendment to the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act that would lift the ban on military insurance coverage for abortions in cases of rape and incest, providing military women with reproductive health coverage that is equal in scope to that of civilians. But Senate leadership decided against allowing a vote on the amendment Wednesday, ruling it non-germane. A spokesman for Shaheen said he did not know why the Parliamentarian had made that decision.

"I'm very disappointed that we will not have a chance this week to debate this critical issue," Shaheen told HuffPost, "but we'll keep fighting for it as long as we have to."
Earlier this year, the House Rules Committee blocked a similar Democrat-sponsored amendment from reaching a vote. Rep. Susan Davis (D-Calif.) said it is unclear exactly why the committee, led by Rep. David Dreier (R-Calif.), made that decision.

"I think they just don't want this to come up," she told HuffPost in May, "so they used a rule to block it."

A woman's risk of being sexually assaulted doubles when she joins the military, the American Civil Liberties Union reported in a 2011 fact sheet.

Throughout most of the 1970s, military women could use their insurance plans to cover abortion without restrictions. In 1981, Congress banned military abortion coverage in all cases except when a pregnancy endangered the life of the mother, and the measure was codified into permanent law in 1984.

But rape -- and rapes resulting in pregnancy -- is still a major problem in the U.S. military. In Fiscal Year 2010 alone, more than 3,000 sexual assaults were reported in the military, over a quarter of which were rapes, according to the Department of Defense. (A request for data for FY 2011 was not immediately fulfilled.) And the DOD estimates that about 86 percent of military rapes go unreported.

A woman's risk of being sexually assaulted doubles when she joins the military, the American Civil Liberties Union reported in a 2011 fact sheet.

"This policy is fundamentally unfair to the more than 200,000 women serving in our military," Shaheen said on Wednesday. "They are fighting to protect our rights, and they should have the same rights to reproductive health care as our civilian employees."

Source:

Rise in Homeless Female Vets Tied To Military Sexual Abuse

First Posted: 8/17/11 09:37 AM ET Updated: 1/3/12 04:46 PM ET

The number of homeless female veterans is on the rise and the high rate of Military Sexual Assault may be partly to blame.

Between 2008 and 2009, women veterans made up 7.5 percent of the estimated 75,609 homeless service members, according to the Department of Veteran Affairs. The same organization found that 20 percent of female Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have experienced Military Sexual Abuse, a trauma that is more likely to impede a veteran’s transition back to society, than a combat-related trauma, according to a 2009 Clinical Psychology Review study, the Portland Monthly cited.

"I think I can say confidently that every single woman in the military has dealt with sexual harassment at some time in their career," Mickiela Montoya, a homeless veteran, told ABC. Montoya, who served as a policewoman in Iraq for seven years said a fellow soldier threatened to rape her in Iraq.

Recognizing the pressing need to cater to this specific population, the U.S. Department of Labor’s Women Bureau launched a guide for service providers in July to ensure that homeless veterans’ unique challenges are adequately addressed. Paulina Hicks, who lives in a veteran-funded women’s living center in California, is one such traumatized veteran who the Department of Labor hopes to target.

"Of course, I’ll never forget his face," Hicks told the Huffington Post in April of the man she said raped her at an air show.

Hicks said that another man, who broke into her dormitory in Texas, raped her and that she was verbally and physically assaulted by a superior in Oregon whom she worked with on a daily basis for three years. She reported a few incidences, but mostly kept the attacks to herself.

While the growing rate of female homeless veterans is a nationwide concern, certain pockets of the population are experiencing the rise more than others.

In Fayetteville, N.C., for example, the female veteran homeless rate has hit 18 percent, according to the Fay Observer. But, finding housing is just part of the problem. Getting veterans to overcome their reluctance to ask for help is another.

“There’s more shame, secrecy, and stigma attached to post-traumatic stress disorder associated with military sexual trauma than with combat-related PTSD,” Marcia Hall, a counselor and Women’s Health Program manager at the Roseburg VA told the Portland Monthly. “It’s a hidden war.”

-Huffington Post (excerpt)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill No.</th>
<th>Measure Title</th>
<th>Report Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HB2226</td>
<td>RELATING TO AN AUTOMATED VICTIM NOTIFICATION SYSTEM</td>
<td>Automated Victim Notification System</td>
<td>Requires the Department of Public Safety to establish a statewide automated victim notification system to provide victims of crime, surviving family members, and concerned members of the public with information regarding the custodial status of the offender.</td>
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<td>SB2581</td>
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<tr>
<td>HB2227</td>
<td>RELATING TO BIRTH CERTIFICATES</td>
<td>New Birth Certificates; Transgender</td>
<td>Provides amended birth certificates for persons who have undergone a gender transition.</td>
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<td>SB2577</td>
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<td>HB2229</td>
<td>RELATING TO BIRTH DEFECTS WARNINGS</td>
<td>Liquor Establishments; Birth Defects Warning Sign</td>
<td>Requires establishments that serve alcoholic beverages to display notification to warn customers of the risk of consuming alcohol during pregnancy. Establishes penalties.</td>
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<td>SB2580</td>
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<td>HB2228</td>
<td>RELATING TO BREASTFEEDING IN THE WORKPLACE</td>
<td>Employment Practices; Labor and Industrial Relations:</td>
<td>Requires an employer with twenty or more employees to make reasonable efforts to provide a clean location for breastfeeding employees to express breast milk in privacy. Requires covered employers to post a notice pertaining to this provision in a conspicuous location. Establishes a civil fine for the failure of an employer to provide a location or post notice.</td>
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<td>SB2573</td>
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<td>HB2230</td>
<td>RELATING TO CANCER</td>
<td>Cervical and Breast Cancer Screening; Transfer of Funds</td>
<td>Transfers Funds from the Department of Human Services to the Department of Health for cervical and breast cancer screening, education, and outreach.</td>
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<td>SB2572</td>
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<td>HB2231</td>
<td>RELATING TO COMMUNITY PLACEMENT PROGRAMS FOR FEMALE OFFENDERS TRANSITIONING FROM INCARCERATION TO THE COMMUNITY</td>
<td>Community Placement Programs for Female Offenders; Appropriations</td>
<td>Appropriates funds for community placement programs for female offenders transitioning from incarceration back into the community.</td>
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<td>SB2574</td>
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<td>HB2232</td>
<td>RELATING TO HEALTH</td>
<td>Health; Physicians; Medical School Students; Pelvic Examinations, Informed Consent</td>
<td>Prohibits a physician, osteopathic physician, surgeon, or medical student from performing a pelvic examination on an anesthetized or unconscious female patient unless specific informed consent was obtained, the pelvic examination is within the specified scope of care, or the pelvic examination is required for diagnostic purposes on an unconscious patient.</td>
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<td>SB2578</td>
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<td>HB2234</td>
<td>RELATING TO MINORS</td>
<td>Establishes the minor victims of prostitution special fund. Amends the definition of child abuse or neglect to include acts or omissions of any person or legal entity. Requires mandatory reporting when there is reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect. Requires law enforcement to immediately report incidents of child prostitution to DHS. Establishes a two-year victim services pilot program to address the needs of minor victims of prostitution.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SB2579</td>
<td>RELATING TO MINORS</td>
<td>Establishes the minor victims of prostitution special fund. Amends the definition of child abuse or neglect to include acts or omissions of any person or legal entity. Requires mandatory reporting when there is reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect. Requires law enforcement to immediately report incidents of child prostitution to DHS. Establishes a two-year victim services pilot program to address the needs of minor victims of prostitution.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HB2235</td>
<td>RELATING TO PROSTITUTION</td>
<td>Authorizes a person convicted of committing the offense of prostitution to file a motion to vacate the judgment under certain circumstances; establishes procedures for the motion to vacate.</td>
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<td>SB2576</td>
<td>RELATING TO MANDATORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS</td>
<td>Amends the definition of child abuse or neglect to include acts or omissions of any person or legal entity. Requires mandatory reporting when there is reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect. Expands medical personnel's duty to report wounds to include injuries suffered by a victim of labor trafficking or injuries that result from prostitution.</td>
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<td>HR11</td>
<td>REQUESTS THE U.S. CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE IMMEDIATE REPEAL OF COMBAT EXCLUSIONARY RULES AS CONTRARY TO GOOD ORDER AND DISCIPLINE AND AS THE HUMANE, ETHICAL COURSE OF ACTION.</td>
<td>Women in the Military</td>
<td>Requests the U.S. Congress to support repeal of combat exclusionary rules.</td>
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<td>HCR17</td>
<td>REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH A PLAN OF ACTION TO REDUCE INCIDENCE OF CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE IN HAWAII.</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Requests the Dept. of Health to establish a plan of action to reduce incidence of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in Hawaii and inform the public.</td>
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<td>HR10</td>
<td>REQUESTING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM TO SECURE A PERMANENT HOME IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL.</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Requesting Hawaii's Congressional delegation to support the efforts of the National Women's History Museum to secure a permanent home in the nation's capital.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HCR16</td>
<td>URGES THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND THE HAWAII OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES TO DEVELOP COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO ADDRESS THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF WOMEN VETERANS.</td>
<td>Women Veterans</td>
<td>Urges the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and Services to develop comprehensive programs and services to address the specific needs of women veterans in such areas as medical and mental healthcare, child care services, housing, and financial assistance. Requests the Hawaii Office of Veterans to report back to the Legislature.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HR12</td>
<td>SUPPORTS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A VETERANS COURT WITHIN THE HAWAII STATE CIRCUIT COURT.</td>
<td>Veterans Services</td>
<td>Supports the establishment of the Veterans Court within the Hawaii State Circuit Court. The Veterans Court would provide participating veterans with rehabilitation, medical care, mental health, substance abuse, housing, employment services, and counseling assistance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCR18</td>
<td>REQUESTS THE U.S. CONGRESS TO FUND ABORTIONS FOR SERVICEWOMEN IN CASES OF RAPE OR INCEST AND LIFT THE BAN ON PRIVATE FUNDING OF ABORTIONS AT MILITARY BASES.</td>
<td>Women Veterans</td>
<td>Requests the U.S. Congress to fund abortions for servicewomen in cases of rape or incest and lift the ban on private funding of abortions at military bases. This would provide women in the U.S. Military who have been assigned to posts overseas the same basic healthcare as their domestic counterparts, including safe abortions at military facilities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HCR20</td>
<td>REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO REINVEST FUNDS FROM INCARCERATION TO STRUCTURED COMMUNITY PLACEMENT FOR ELIGIBLE NON-VIOLENT FEMALES</td>
<td>Public Safety</td>
<td>Requests the Dept. of Public Safety to reinvest funds from incarceration to structured community placement for eligible non-violent females.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bill No.</td>
<td>Measure Title</td>
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<td>HB127</td>
<td>RELATED TO HEALTHCARE</td>
<td>Compassionate Care; Emergency Contraception</td>
<td>Requires hospitals and providers to provide survivors of sexual assault with medically and factually accurate and unbiased information regarding emergency contraception, as well as access to emergency contraception. Requires providers to provide certain additional services.</td>
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<td>SB218</td>
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