



**23 Bills That We Should All be Talking About
(But really, there are about 100 Bills that I Wish We Could Talk About Today)**

To track bills/find your legislators/follow along with legislative action: www.capitol.tn.gov

*Bills with asterisks next to them are part of the Women's Fund of Greater Chattanooga's priority list; HB = House Bill; SB = Senate Bill

Political Participation

HB547/SB589*: This bill restores the voting rights of persons convicted of certain crimes upon receipt of a pardon or completion of any sentence of incarceration, parole, or probation. Among other things, it removes legal/financial obligations as a barrier to voting eligibility. **Think Tennessee Priority

HB1714/SB1555: This bill authorizes voters to request an absentee ballot by an online form.

HB2644/SB2575: This bill requires county election commissions to call, text, and email notifications to voters whose registration may be purged as a result of the address verification program, with instruction on how the voters may verify or correct their address information.

Maternal Mortality/Postpartum Health

HB2039/SB1902: This bill provides a 12-month period of postpartum coverage for pregnant women who meet certain medical assistance eligibility requirements.

HB1820/SB1733: This bill increases the frequency of reporting required by the Tennessee maternal mortality review and prevention team to the governor and the general assembly, including its recommendations for changes to any policy that would promote the safety and well-being of women and prevention of maternal deaths

Violence & Safety

**HB2171/SBTBD*: This bill prohibits an advocate from disclosing communications received from a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking in a judicial, legislative, or administrative proceeding unless the victim gives express written consent.

AWAKE Priority



**HB2191/SB2121:* This bill revises various provisions regarding the rights of victims of sexually oriented crimes, including decreasing the time period within which a law enforcement agency must submit a sexual assault evidence collection (SAEC) kit to the TBI, requiring the TBI to begin analyzing an SAEC kit within 30 days of receipt, requiring the TBI to create a tracking system for SAEC kits, and prohibiting the use of forensic evidence against the victim in certain circumstances.

Human Trafficking: Bills Protecting Youth

HB2280/SB2275: When a minor is taken into custody for suspicion of prostitution, this bill requires that a TBI representative and a law enforcement officer provide that minor with the Tennessee human trafficking resource center hotline and release the minor to a parent's or guardian's custody or transport the minor to a shelter.

**HB2093/SB2043:* This bill requires the Department of Children's Services to publish the guidelines for the best practices for identifying and reporting signs of child abuse, child sexual abuse, and human trafficking in which the victim is a child on their website.

Work Place Equity and Equality

HB2078/SB2520:* This bill will enact the Tennessee Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, prohibiting employers from discriminating against employees with pregnancy-related conditions by not providing them with reasonable accommodations. **A Better Balance Priority

**HB2024/SB1786:* This bill provides 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave for state employees and teachers.

HB1872/SB1858: This bill will enact the Tennessee Family Insurance Act which provides 12 weeks paid family and medical leave to everyone in the state by way of an employee-funded insurance program and without financial buy in from employers.

Pregnant and Postpartum Prisoner Rights (led by Healthy & Free Tennessee)

**HB1651/SB1839:* This bill requires a physician to provide prenatal and postpartum medical care to pregnant prisoners and detainees, and requires correctional institutions to provide pregnant prisoners nutritionally appropriate meals and supplemental provisions. (American Correctional Health Association)



HB1240/SB1150: This bill restricts the use of physical restraints on pregnant inmates.

HB1184/SB958: This bill prohibits solitary confinement of pregnant prisoners or immediately postpartum prisoners.

Advancing Sex Education in Tennessee Schools

HB2434/SB2583: This bill deletes the family life curriculum that only allows students to receive education on sexual risk avoidance through abstinence and requires each school district and public charter school to provide students with medically accurate, age-appropriate sex education that teaches about abstinence, contraception, consent, and how to develop healthy relationships and communication skills.

HB2477/SB2469: This bill requires that the family life curriculum adopted by the state board of education or an LEA include information on the prevention of dating violence.

Empowerment & Educational Opportunity

**HB379/SB823:* This bill requires the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation to designate pregnancy as an approved medical leave of absence for purposes of the Tennessee HOPE scholarship.

HB2865/SB1918: This bill creates the Tennessee second chance scholarship program to award scholarships to assist persons who have been placed in the custody of the department of children's services in their pursuit of a postsecondary degree or credential.

Economics and Poverty

HB1918/SB1788: This bill increases the minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$15.

HB2038/SB1904: This bill increases the minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$10.

HB2551/SB1797: This bill requires that the minimum rate of compensation for state employees is equivalent to \$15.

HB2591/SB1851: This bill increases the minimum wage of an employee who receives tips from \$21.3 plus tips that must equal \$7.25 to \$7.25 in addition to tips.



Tips for Calling your Legislator

1. Call when it is timely.
2. Identify yourself as a constituent - if you are.
3. Be clear, polite, and concise.
4. State the bill number and the issue with a short position statement.

How to Stay Involved and Keep Taking Action

1. Spend 10-15 minutes familiarizing yourself with the General Assembly website.
www.capitol.tn.gov

1. Identify your legislators.
2. Save their phone numbers.
3. Look up a bill by bill number.

2. Find a Tennessee Organization (or 2 or 3) that Sends out Action Alerts, sign up for their emails, and follow them on Facebook. Then complete the actions that they recommend.

3. **Sign up for the Women Fund of Greater Chattanooga's Advocacy list at our website:**
www.chattanoogaomensfund.org

(Click on "Take Action," Scroll down and enter your email where it says "Join Advocacy Action Team)

If you have questions or need suggestions about next steps:

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