



WISCONSIN COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT

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## 2019- 2020 Public Policy Agenda January 2019

### OVERVIEW

The Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Inc. (WCASA) is a membership agency comprised of 54 sexual assault service providers (SASPs) across the state working to end sexual violence in Wisconsin.

WCASA developed this Public Policy Agenda consistent with our mission, philosophy, and agenda-setting criteria. However, this is a living document. We encourage legislators, sexual assault survivors, SASPs, and others to contact us with other public policy ideas throughout the 2019-2020 legislative session in Wisconsin.

**Vision:** A socially just world in which all people value equity and healthy sexuality

**Mission:** Creating the social change necessary to end sexual violence.

**Foundation:** To end sexual violence, we must also end all forms of oppression.

For more information about WCASA's Vision, Mission and Philosophies, please see <https://www.wcasa.org/who-we-are/vision-mission-philosophies>

### **Position-Setting Criteria**

WCASA prioritized the following policy positions according to these criteria, listed in no particular order:

- Available WCASA resources
- Impact on survivors of sexual violence
- Alignment with WCASA's long-term interests
- Lack of adequate coverage by allied organizations
- Ability to achieve a meaningful policy outcome
- Timeliness

### **Anti-Oppression Framework**

WCASA believes that to achieve our mission of ending sexual violence, we must also end all forms of oppression. Anti-oppression work is, in fact, also sexual violence prevention work. We stand in solidarity with our allies working on issues of racial justice and other oppressions. For more information, please see <https://wcasa.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/resources/WCASA%2BAnti-Oppression%2BFramework%2BJanuary%2B2017.pdf>

## AGENDA

### **Tier 1, Leadership Issues**

Based on the criteria above, WCASA considers Tier 1 issues the organization's highest public policy priorities.

#### **Sexual Assault Services and Prevention Funding**

- WCASA supports increasing funding for sexual assault victim services and prevention.

#### **Campus Sexual Assault**

- WCASA supports partnerships between college/university campuses and their local SASPs for providing truly confidential, community-based sexual assault victim services and collaborating on effective prevention.

#### **Sexual Assault Kits**

- WCASA supports providing sexual assault survivors increased access to information regarding their sexual assault kits.

#### **Sexual Harassment**

- WCASA supports strengthening workplace sexual harassment protections addressing the following principles: expanding protections to more workers, increasing accountability for employers and individual harassers, enhancing transparency while preserving victim autonomy, and requiring sexual harassment prevention strategies.

### **Tier 2, Participant Issues**

Tier 2 issues are important to WCASA but are well covered by other allied organizations. WCASA will be as supportive as possible on these priorities, and will engage our membership selectively and strategically, where members' contributions can produce a meaningful policy outcome.

#### **Racial Justice**

- WCASA supports focusing services and prevention for women of color who experience disproportionately high rates of sexual violence.
- WCASA supports protecting the rights, freedoms and well-being of people of color.
- WCASA supports dismantling the School-to-Prison Pipeline and related reforms to systems that disproportionately impact people of color.

#### **LGBTQ+**

- WCASA supports focusing services and prevention for members of LGBTQ+ communities, who experience disproportionately high rates of sexual violence.
- WCASA supports protecting the rights, freedoms and well-being of members of LGBTQ+ communities

#### **Economic Justice**

- WCASA supports addressing systemic, economic inequities that disproportionately impact historically marginalized communities.

#### **Sex Trafficking**

- WCASA supports addressing sex trafficking through effective prevention and intervention that treats affected individuals as victims or survivors rather than as delinquents or criminals.
- WCASA supports placing greater focus on addressing demand for sex trafficking, including harsher penalties on "buyers" and pimps/traffickers.
- WCASA supports providing trafficking survivors comprehensive, effective services and protections.

### **Statute of Limitations for Child Victims (civil suit)**

- WCASA supports expanding or abolishing time limits (i.e., statutes of limitations) within which a victim of sexual assault as a child can bring a civil suit against the perpetrator.

### **Reproductive Health**

- WCASA supports protecting or advancing women's reproductive health, including access to comprehensive reproductive health services.

### **Violence Prevention**

- WCASA supports providing effective violence prevention in and outside of schools.

### **Tier 3, Monitored Issues**

Tier 3 issues are important to WCASA. These issues can become higher priorities when events warrant. WCASA will monitor these issues and possibly issue statements, sign joint letters initiated by allies, and other actions.

### **SANE Shortage**

- WCASA supports expanding the availability of medical forensic examiners and exams throughout Wisconsin.

### **Access to Confidential Survivor Information**

- WCASA supports clarifying the threshold that defense attorneys must meet to obtain survivors' confidential records.

### **Wisconsin Family & Medical Leave Insurance Act**

- WCASA supports creating an insurance program that provides workers with access to paid family and medical leave, as well as other protections.

### **Health Care**

- WCASA supports policies that will effectively address health disparities for women and children that are rooted in race and geography.

### **Housing**

- WCASA supports increased flexibility for sexual assault survivors to terminate their rental agreement. Lessening the proof requirements in housing law, such that sexual assault survivors can terminate a rental agreement more easily if a sexual assault advocate informs the landlord that the tenant is a survivor of sexual assault.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss other public policy matters related to sexual assault, please contact:

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