



2021-2022 Public Policy Agenda

The Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault is a hybrid organization: functioning both to support member Sexual Assault Service Providers (SASPs), while advancing the sexual assault movement in the state and nationally. We developed this Public Policy Agenda consistent with our vision, mission, and foundation. However, this is a living document. We encourage legislators, survivors, SASPs, and others to contact us with other public policy ideas throughout the 2021-2022 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.

Anti-Oppression Framework: WCASA believes that to achieve our mission of ending sexual violence, we must end all forms of racism and other forms of oppression; anti-racism work is sexual violence prevention work. WCASA recognizes that we have caused harm to Black and Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC). As we strive to become an anti-racist organization, WCASA commits to purposefully identify, discuss, and challenge racism and the impact it has in our state, systems, and people. It is an expectation that WCASA staff and board of directors take action against racism; in doing so, they will be supported by the organization. It is no longer acceptable to sit in silence. We stand in solidarity with individuals and organizations working towards racial justice led by BIPOC.

For more information about WCASA: <https://www.wcasa.org/about/framework/>

Sexual Violence Specific Issues:

These policy priorities are specific to sexual assault. As the statewide sexual assault coalition, WCASA often assumes leadership responsibility on these topics. We also seek out support from our membership, other stakeholders, and survivors to support these policy initiatives.

Funding for Training and Technical Assistance to Enhance Sexual Assault Victim Services

WCASA supports increasing Sexual Assault Victim Services (SAVS) funding to provide high quality training and technical assistance to enhance victim services across the state. The increase in funding should be appropriated to WCASA to meet the increasing demand for training and technical assistance by programs in Wisconsin.

Prohibiting Sexual Contact by a Law Enforcement Officer with a Person in their Custody

WCASA supports prohibiting a law enforcement officer from engaging in sexual contact or intercourse with a person in their custody and ensuring consent is not an issue in these crimes.

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Education

WCASA supports requiring schools to implement child sexual abuse prevention instruction to students in grades K-6 which incorporates elements of the [10 Core Concepts of Child Sexual Abuse Prevention](#).

HIV Prophylaxis for Survivors

WCASA supports ensuring free and timely access to HIV prophylaxis medications for survivors.

Statute of Limitations for Child Victims (civil suit)

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

Campus Sexual Assault

WCASA supports partnerships between campuses and SASPs to provide truly confidential, community-based sexual assault victim services and to implement comprehensive, effective prevention strategies.

Sexual Harassment

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

Access to Confidential Survivor Information

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

Housing

WCASA supports increased flexibility for survivors to terminate their rental agreement, including lessening the proof requirements in housing law.

Sexual Assault Kits

WCASA supports increasing survivors' access to information regarding their sexual assault kits, as well as codifying existing protocols to ensure that kits are sent to the Crime Lab and tested in a timely manner.

Sex Trafficking

WCASA supports addressing sex trafficking through effective prevention and intervention that treats affected individuals as victims/survivors and by placing greater focus on ending the demand for sex trafficking.

Allied Issues:

These policy initiatives are not specific to sexual assault, yet they are core to our organizational foundation and are integral to our work. As the statewide sexual assault coalition, WCASA will follow the lead of allied organizations as they identify policy priorities.

Racial Justice

WCASA supports protecting the rights, freedoms and well-being of Black and Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC), including policies that transform existing systems to eliminate their negative and disproportionate impact on BIPOC. This includes supporting policies that reframe the idea of public safety by investing in community-based practices that resist abuse and oppression and encourage safety, support, and accountability.

LGBTQ+ Rights

WCASA supports protecting the rights, freedoms and well-being of members of LGBTQ+ communities. This includes supporting a conversion therapy ban and policies that prohibit discrimination on the basis of a person's gender identity or expression in housing, education, and employment.

Immigration

WCASA supports protecting the rights, freedoms and well-being of immigrant communities. This includes supporting policies that prohibit discrimination based on citizenship or immigration status. We also oppose policies that prohibit cities/towns from enacting ordinances barring local law enforcement agencies from cooperating with Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents (i.e. Anti-Sanctuary City policies).

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW)

WCASA supports policies addressing the disproportionate rates of violence towards Indigenous women and girls, including implementing the recommendations of the state Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Task Force.

Economic Justice

WCASA supports addressing systemic, economic inequities that disproportionately impact BIPOC, including increasing the minimum wage, prohibiting employment discrimination based upon a conviction record, and improving access to high quality child care services for working families.

COVID-19 Relief

WCASA supports policies that provide meaningful relief to families and workers impacted by COVID-19, including extending the current suspension of the waiting period for unemployment benefits and prohibiting evictions and foreclosures during this public health crisis.

Reproductive Health and Access

WCASA supports protecting and advancing reproductive health, including access to comprehensive reproductive health services and medically accurate sexual health education. This includes repealing the criminal abortion statute and limiting the use of physical restraints on pregnant and post-partum people who are in the custody of a correctional facility.

Violence Prevention

WCASA supports providing effective prevention in and outside of schools on various topics, including teen dating violence, gun violence, and other violence impacting communities.

Health Care

WCASA supports policies that effectively address health disparities that are rooted in race and geography, expand access to affordable health care, and which provide workers with access to paid family and medical leave.

If you have questions or feedback, please contact:

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