

THE EQUAL TIMES

Women's rights. Nothing less.



CHANGING LAWS & CHANGING LIVES IN WASHINGTON

The Washington Legislature's 2019 session was a whirlwind of strong advocacy, exciting trips to Olympia, and powerful community efforts. Despite continued challenges at the federal level, we remained **undaunted in our efforts** for progressive policies that improve the lives of Washington women, girls, and LGBTQ people. That advocacy, **combined with your support**, resulted in important changes to Washington State laws.



Survivor advocates, including Legal Voice's David Ward and board member Riddhi Mukhopadhyay, stand with Gov. Inslee as he signs HB 1149 into law.

This year's legislative achievements include:

- The Legislature **strengthened the law for sexual assault survivors** (HB 1149) by clarifying that to obtain a sexual assault protection order, a survivor is required to allege and prove only that she was sexually assaulted. This bill is in direct response to an unjust state Supreme Court ruling holding that a survivor must also prove that she has additional reasons beyond the assault to fear her attacker in the future.
- Lawmakers further improved the law for survivors by **reforming the statute of limitations** for sexual assault crimes (SB 5649), meaning survivors now have more time to come forward and seek justice when they are ready. The bill also redefines third-degree rape to be more aligned with affirmative consent standards.
- Washington took another bold step toward closing the gender and racial wage gap by **restricting employers' use of wage history** when making pay decisions (HB 1696). Under this new law, **employers are also required to disclose pay scale information to applicants and employees**. This gives employees more power in negotiating wages, especially those who have historically been underpaid, including women, people of color, and LGBTQ people.
- Trans students gained protections with SB 5689, which **strengthens Washington's law against student bullying, harassment, and intimidation** to include additional training and specific policies to protect transgender youth.

A few of our priority issues made incremental progress, but **we'll be back to strengthen them** in next year's session.

- The **Reproductive Health Access for All Act** (SB 5602) was designed to fill gaps in reproductive health care coverage for undocumented immigrants and transgender and gender non-conforming people. Near the end of the session, the Legislature removed fundamental provisions from the bill, ultimately passing it without fully committing to covering services for immigrants on a par with other Washington residents. We're thrilled to see more robust protections for people denied coverage based solely on their gender identity, and we are committed to working with legislators again next session to write access for immigrant communities into law.
- Legal Voice worked in coalition with Casa Latina, ROC Seattle, UNITE HERE Local 8, and the Washington Coalition to Eliminate Farmworker Sexual Harassment to draft a potential bill to **reduce workplace sexual harassment** across all industries, including domestic workers and farmworkers. While we were disappointed that the bill was not introduced this session, we are committed to working with legislative champions on this issue next session.

All in all, we are thrilled with the progress made this session! Thanks to our **legislative champions** for fighting for these bills, to our **community partners** for their strong efforts to pass them, and to **you**, for raising your voice on the issues that matter to you and your community. Here's to more progress in 2020!



Building a Future We All Believe in at Cocktails for a Cause

The Legal Voice community comprises people of different backgrounds, different identities, and different lived experiences. But we are **united by a vision of justice** where all women and LGBTQ people can live their lives with dignity, safety, and autonomy.

At this year's Cocktails for a Cause, our community **raised nearly \$28,000** to make this vision a reality. Thank you for believing in the change we can make together!

We are so grateful to our phenomenal speaker **Riddhi Mukhopadhyay**, a longtime Legal Voice volunteer and

current board member. Riddhi inspired us to channel our rage into action to build a future that works for all women and LGBTQ people. In her words, "Individually, each of us is outraged. **Together, we are powerful.**"

Cocktails for a Cause was made possible by the support of our dedicated sponsors: **Foster Pepper, Perkins Coie, Stoel Rives, and Summit Law Group**. Special thanks to PIQ Photo Booth Co. for capturing the fun with fabulous photos, available on our Flickr at www.flickr.com/legalvoice.

BIG THANKS FOR GIVEBIG!

We're so inspired by our generous community! On GiveBIG, a one-day giving event that supports Washington nonprofits, our community **donated nearly \$21,500** to advance our work for campus sexual assault survivors in the Northwest. Together, we're ensuring that they have the strong laws and resources they need in the aftermath of violence to **get safe, seek help, and thrive**.

One of these resources is our Know Your Rights website (www.students.LegalVoice.org), a vital tool for students in Washington. The gifts received on GiveBIG will help us **adapt this information to students in Idaho**—and eventually Oregon, Montana, and Alaska—ensuring all students in the Northwest have the information they need, when they need it. Thank you for pushing these efforts forward!





Expanding Access to Abortion Care in Idaho

Did you know that **95% of Idaho counties** do not have an abortion provider? A major contributor to this dire statistic is a decades-old law that requires abortions to be performed **exclusively by physicians**. So while many Idahoans rely on advanced practice clinicians (APCs)—such as nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, and physician assistants—to meet their reproductive health care needs, those providers are **banned from offering abortion care** to their patients.

So we're demanding change.

We partnered with Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and the Hawaiian Islands to challenge Idaho's outdated law in court. Our argument is simple: **As medical best practices evolve, so must the laws that govern them.**

And medical best practices *have* evolved. Years of research show that APCs can provide early abortion care **as safely and effectively as physicians**. Indeed, APCs are already performing numerous procedures that are at least as complex as abortion, including delivering babies. They are even allowed to provide care that is identical to most abortion care, but only when it is categorized as miscarriage management.

Laws like Idaho's were created in the wake of *Roe v. Wade* as a means to protect people seeking abortion care from unlicensed providers. But today, they are used as **yet another tactic to limit access to abortion care**. And like many of the other abortion restrictions we're seeing across the country, this law is especially harmful for those who already face barriers to health care—including people of color, people with low-incomes or without insurance, and people living in rural areas.

We are confident that the court will agree that Idaho's physician-only requirement **does nothing to protect the safety of patients**, but instead restricts access to safe, effective, and affordable abortion care.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR ONGOING LITIGATION IN IDAHO, VISIT LEGALVOICE.ORG/NEWS.



A NEW VOICE AT LEGAL VOICE

Meet **Chelsea Gaona-Lincoln**, our new Litigation Support Coordinator! Chelsea is on the ground in Idaho, providing support for our abortion access case (*see above*) and mobilizing providers and community members on this issue.

You may recognize Chelsea's name from another case, in which Legal Voice and Compassion & Choices are challenging an Idaho law that invalidates a person's living will if they are pregnant at

the time that they become incapacitated. As a plaintiff in that case, Chelsea has demonstrated her **strong commitment to bodily autonomy**, her connection to community, and her intersectional approach to gender equity—all of which will make her shine in her new role.

We look forward to following Chelsea's lead to establish more prominent community roots in Idaho as we continue fighting for **reproductive justice for all people** in the Northwest.

**SAVE THE DATE FOR
THE LEGAL VOICE AUCTION!**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2019 • 5:30–9:30 P.M.
SHERATON GRAND SEATTLE

LEGAL VOICE

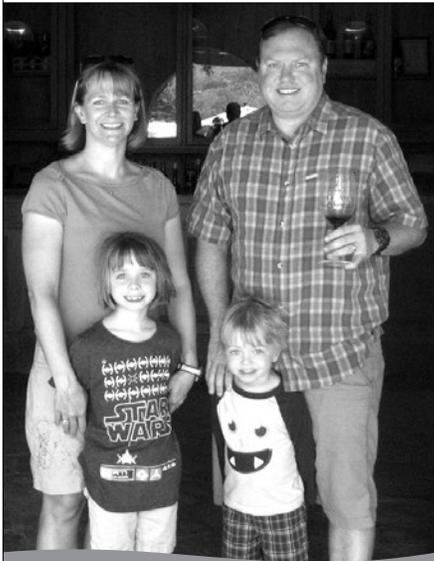
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BECOME A VISIONARY...

BY MOLLY TERWILLIGER

"I believe in Legal Voice, so much so that I have designated this amazing organization as my contingent beneficiary in my will. While it's hard to think about the circumstances that would lead to this final gift, it is a great relief to me that it will be used to carry on the good work of Legal Voice to build the world I want for my children, and for women and families everywhere."

Legal Voice Visionaries are supporters and friends who have included Legal Voice in their estate plans or wills. If you are interested in our Visionaries program and would like to know more about it, please contact B. Michelle Johnson, Director of Development, at 206-682-9552 x113, or by email at MJohnson@LegalVoice.org.

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE:

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