



BIPARTISAN FEMINIST
PROJECT



BIPARTISAN
ADVOCACY
GUIDEBOOK

What is the Bipartisan Advocacy Guidebook?

The Bipartisan Feminist Project is the first organization in the United States dedicated to bridging the partisan divide over feminism. A vital part of the conversation surrounding unity in the feminist movement is the governmental barriers to pro-women progress. Our Bipartisan Advocacy Program and Guidebook initiate this conversation in a way that has never been done before.

The Bipartisan Advocacy Program is our six-part workshop designed to educate high school students on pro-women legislation and guide them through advocating for these laws through research-backed methods of bipartisan discourse. This Guidebook is a supplement for this class, providing in-depth research on pro-women legislation and tools to advocate for them. The Bipartisan Advocacy Guidebook is set apart by:

- **Detailed insight** into opposing ideologies and how to reconcile them through your political action campaign
- **Compiled lists of legislators** who have curtailed bipartisan feminism to whom you should target your campaign
- **Efficient methods** to expand your campaign based on our Team's interviews with federal and local legislators

When legislators and students don't understand pro-women laws, they engage in back-and-forth rhetoric rather than find common ground over them. Each class of the Bipartisan Advocacy Program combats this harmful status quo by bringing students together - male and female - to learn the basics of a different pro-women

law and how each political party views that law. Each section of this Guidebook [1] provides an overview of the law in question, [2] details how political parties can compromise to support it, and [3] lists the contact information of Senators or Representatives who have the power to develop a bipartisan solution.

The final section of this Guidebook, "Enacting your Advocacy Project," features the aspects of an effective advocacy project and resources to achieve them, based on advice gathered directly from the BIFP Team's research and interviews with federal and local legislators.

As students take action, we believe we can foster the action from legislators necessary to ensure equal treatment for the next generation.

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Table of Contents

Overcoming Partisanship	5
The Equal Rights Amendment	8
The Violence Against Women Act	17
The Equal Pay Act	21
The “Walking While Trans” Ban	28
Establishing Intersectionality	31
Enacting your Advocacy Project	35

Overcoming Partisanship

Achieving Bipartisan Feminism

Bipartisan feminism is the idea that anyone can be a feminist regardless of his or her political affiliation. Although it may seem difficult to reconcile some political opinions with feminism, doing so is necessary to ensure equal rights and treatment for women globally. This section contains strategies to work to achieve bipartisan feminism both in discussions with peers and when advocating for the passage of pro-women legislation.

Strategy 1: Feminism for All Philosophies

40% of political opinions are caused by genetic differences with which people are born. Conservatives are mentally wired to be more concerned with safety, while liberals are less concerned with safety (Hibbing). People usually can not completely change their mindsets, yet they can shift them as they grow more aware of relevant social conflicts. As a peer, you can help non-feminists understand how feminism fits into the goals which they value. Consider the example below:

Person 1: Male privilege doesn't exist because men and women have equal rights and are paid the same for doing the same job.

Person 2: Capitalism is supposed to reward people for hard work. However, because of sexism, women often don't get rewarded for the value they create. Companies led by women on average generate 15% greater profits (Blumberg), but women are still less likely to get promoted than men (Bayern). Sexism prevents us from rewarding people for their work and as a result loses money for companies.

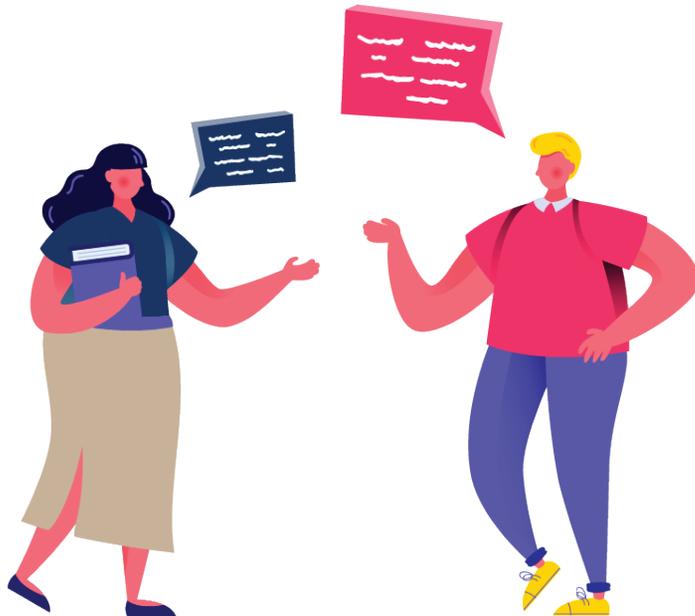


Strategy 2: Appealing to Safety

Yale Psychology Professor John Bargh found that you can make liberals more conservative by threatening their safety and make conservatives more liberal by telling them to imagine being invincible (Brueck). Thus, it is important to not attack or threaten conservative non-feminists when sharing your beliefs, because this can make them more conservative and less likely to change their beliefs. Consider the example below:

Person 1: Many feminists are anti-man and want women to be superior to men.

Person 2: I understand why you feel that way and I am not trying to attack men. In fact, there are many ways feminism can help men. For instance, since women have broken gender stereotypes and entered the workplace, men have been able to spend more time with their kids if they choose to. Feminism promotes free choice for all genders.



Strategy 3: Embrace the Tension

Engaging in discourse with people of all perspectives enables us to find the most effective solutions to problems. It is important to accept and embrace healthy criticism of the feminist movement, because non-feminists may sometimes have some important critiques which can improve the feminist movement.

Person 1: Men and women get paid the same for the same job. The wage gap only exists because women choose lower paying jobs.

Person 2: You're right. Maybe the problem isn't that women are paid less for doing the same job, but that women are promoted less frequently. Women are 21% less likely to get promoted than men (Bayern). That's why we see more women teachers and businesswomen but fewer principals and CEOs.



The Equal Rights Amendment

What is the Equal Rights Amendment?

The Equal Rights Amendment is an Amendment proposed in 1923 by women's rights activist Alice Paul to make all laws gender neutral (NYT). The deadline for states to ratify this Amendment was set in 1982; however, largely due to partisan feminism, the Amendment hasn't passed to this day (Stolberg). To advocate for the passage of the ERA, you first need to understand the potential paths to ratification.

When it was first proposed, the ERA needed to be ratified by $\frac{2}{3}$ of states (38 states) by its deadline in 1982 in order to pass. However, the ERA was not ratified by $\frac{2}{3}$ of states until January 2020. There are two possible ways this Amendment could still pass. First, both houses of Congress could vote in favor of extending the deadline of the ERA so that the ratification of $\frac{2}{3}$ of states is still valid. The House of Representatives already voted in favor of this. However, Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell (R-TN), opposes the ERA and has so far refused to bring it up for a vote. Second, Congress could propose a new ERA and begin the ratification process for states all over again. This method would dodge legal debates about whether it is valid to extend the voting deadline of an Amendment (Stolberg).

The ERA: Dealing with Opposition

The Democrat View

Most Democrats support the ERA and, along with five Republicans, contributed to its deadline extension in the House of Representatives. During this vote, many Democratic women wore purple just as suffragettes did in the early 20th century (Stolberg). Democrats have argued that the ERA will strengthen equal pay and unleash the full power of women in our economy.

Although their Republican counterparts claim that the 14th Amendment already guarantees gender equality, Democrats argue that the 14th Amendment only protects against racial and ethnic discrimination, not sex discrimination. Some Supreme Court rulings have been made that the 14th Amendment guarantees gender equality; however, the 14th Amendment only explicitly mentions racial and ethnic discrimination, so unpredictable rulings can be made of what constitutes sex discrimination in each case. Furthermore, not all states have ratified the ERA, so federal and state courts may produce inconsistent rulings on sex discrimination (ERA).

During debates about the ERA in Congress, Nancy Pelosi also pointed out that this Amendment has nothing to do with abortion, just equal rights (Stolberg).

The Republican View

Some Republicans support the ERA; however, the majority of them oppose it. Five Republicans voted for the deadline extension of the ERA in the Senate. In the House, the extension is co-sponsored by Republican Representative Lisa Murkowski (AK).

Republicans argue that the ERA will not make any meaningful changes to women's rights and that it is only a ploy to expand abortion (Stolberg). After New Mexico and Connecticut ratified the ERA, each of their state courts ruled that, under the Amendment, Medicaid needs to fund medically necessary abortions (ERA Education Project). Furthermore, the Students for Life argue that the 14th Amendment and countless other laws already guarantee equal rights for women, and, as a result, the ERA will cause an influx of court cases on sex discrimination without making any meaningful changes for women's rights (Students for Life). Republicans also point out that it may be unconstitutional to extend the deadline of an Amendment, because some states may no longer agree with a decision made by their state decades ago (ERA Education Project).

Reaching Common Ground

First, would the ERA really expand women's rights? The answer is probably no. In the late 20th century, Ruth Bader Ginsburg spearheaded multiple lawsuits which proved that the 14th Amendment already protects women. Still, the ERA is certainly not useless. Conservative justices on the Supreme Court have been questioning if these cases were properly decided, and it is possible that they get overturned. The Equal Rights Amendment could insulate against any potential drawbacks for women's rights (Millhiser).

Second, will the ERA expand abortion rights? The ERA says nothing about abortion. Federal and state courts have the responsibility to interpret whether the ERA will affect abortion rights. Although New Mexico and Connecticut have used the ERA to expand abortion, this doesn't mean other states will. In Pennsylvania, despite the state ERA, state courts ruled that Medicaid funding can be restricted from abortion. In the past, the privacy and due process clauses have been used to expand abortion, but Republicans have not opposed these because they are integral to our nation. Likewise, equal rights for all genders should be integral to our nation and not a conversation about abortion.

Finally, is the ERA deadline extension valid? This is highly debatable (Millhiser). However, this is not a reason to oppose the ERA entirely, because it is still an option to re-propose the ERA to give all states a chance to ratify it again (Stolberg).

Who to Contact

The Senate has not yet passed the deadline extension to the ERA. To promote the passage of the ERA, you should contact the Senators who do not yet support the Amendment and urge them to do so, sharing some of the arguments above. Senators can be motivated to action through emails, calls, and social media messages. The following Senators are not co-sponsors of the ERA's deadline extension and have been particularly instrumental in blocking the passage of the ERA:

Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY)

Online Contact Form: mccconnell.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-2541

Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID)

Online Contact Form: crapo.senate.gov/contact/email-me
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-6142

Senator James E. Risch (R-ID)

Online Contact Form: risch.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact?p=Forms
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-2752

Senator Mitt Romney (R-UT)

Online Contact Form: romney.senate.gov/contact
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-5251

Senator Mike Lee (R-UT)

Online Contact Form: lee.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-5444

Senator Martha McSally (R-AZ)

Online Contact Form: mcsally.senate.gov/contact/email-martha
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-2235

Senator Steven Daines (R-MT)

Online Contact Form: daines.senate.gov/connect/email-steve
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-2651

Senator John Barrasso (R-WY)

Online Contact Form: barrasso.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact-form
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-6441

Senator Michael B. Enzi (R-WY)

Online Contact Form: enzi.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/e-mail-senator-enzi
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-3424

Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO)

Online Contact Form: gardner.senate.gov/contact-cory/email-cory
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-5941

Senator Kevin Cramer (R-ND)

Online Contact Form: cramer.senate.gov/contact/contact-kevin
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-2043

Senator John Hoeven (R-ND)

Online Contact Form: hoeven.senate.gov/contact/email-the-senator
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-2551

Senator Mike Rounds (R-SD)

Online Contact Form: rounds.senate.gov/contact/email-mike
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-5842

Senator John Thune (R-SD)

Online Contact Form: thune.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-2321

Senator Ben Sasse (R-NE)

Online Contact Form: sasse.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email-ben
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-4224

Senator Deb Fischer (R-NE)

Online Contact Form: fischer.senate.gov/public/?p=email-deb
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-6551

Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS)

Online Contact Form: moran.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/e-mail-jerry
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-6521

Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS)

Online Contact Form: roberts.senate.gov/public/?p=EmailPat
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-4774

Senator James Lankford (R-OK)

Online Contact Form: lankford.senate.gov/contact/email
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-5754

Senator James Inhofe (R-OK)

Online Contact Form: inhofe.senate.gov/contact/email-jim
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-4721

Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX)

Online Contact Form: cruz.senate.gov/?p=form&id=16
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-5922

Senator John Cornyn (R-TX)

Online Contact Form: cornyn.senate.gov/contact
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-2934

Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA)

Online Contact Form: ernst.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-3254

Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA)

Online Contact Form: grassley.senate.gov/constituents/questions-and-comments
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-3744

Senator Josh Hawley (R-MO)

Online Contact Form: hawley.senate.gov/contact-senator-hawley
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-6154

Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO)

Online Contact Form: blunt.senate.gov/contact/contact-roy
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-5721

Senator Tom Cotton (R-AR)

Online Contact Form: cotton.senate.gov/?p=contact
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-2353

Senator John Boozman (R-AR)

Online Contact Form: boozman.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/e-mail-me
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-4843

Senator John Kennedy (R-LA)

Online Contact Form: kennedy.senate.gov/public/email-me
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-4623

Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA)

Online Contact Form: cassidy.senate.gov/contact
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-5824

Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI)

Online Contact Form: ronjohnson.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email-the-senator
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-5323

Senator Rand Paul (R-KY)

Online Contact Form: paul.senate.gov/connect/email-rand
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-4343

Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-TN)

Online Contact Form: blackburn.senate.gov/email-me
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-3344

Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN)

Online Contact Form: alexander.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Email
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-4944

Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS)

Online Contact Form: hydesmith.senate.gov/contact-senator
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-5054

Senator Roger F. Wicker (R-MS)

Online Contact Form: wicker.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-6253

Senator Mike Braun (R-IN)

Online Contact Form: braun.senate.gov/contact-mike
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-4814

Senator Todd Young (R-IN)

Online Contact Form: young.senate.gov/contact/email-todd
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-5623

Senator Richard C. Shelby (R-AL)

Online Contact Form: senate.gov/public/index.cfm/emailsensatorshelby
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-5744

Senator Rob Portman (R-OH)

Online Contact Form: portman.senate.gov/meet/contact
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-3353

Senator David Perdue (R-GA)

Online Contact Form: perdue.senate.gov/connect/email
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-3521

Senator Kelly Loeffler (R-GA)

Online Contact Form: loeffler.senate.gov/connect/email-kelly
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-3643

Senator Rick Scott (R-FL)

Online Contact Form: rickscott.senate.gov/contact_rick
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-5274

Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)

Online Contact Form: rubio.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-3041

Senator Patrick J. Toomey (R-PA)

Online Contact Form: toomey.senate.gov/?p=contact
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-4254

Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)

Online Contact Form: capito.senate.gov/contact/share-your-opinion
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-6472

Senator Thom Tillis (R-NC)

Online Contact Form: tillis.senate.gov/email-me
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-6342

Senator Richard Burr (R-NC)

Online Contact Form: burr.senate.gov/contact/email
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-3154

Senator Tim Scott (R-SC)

Online Contact Form: scott.senate.gov/contact/email-me
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-6121

Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC)

Online Contact Form: lgraham.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=contact-form
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-5972

Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK)

Online Contact Form: sullivan.senate.gov/contact/email
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-3004

The other potential path to ratification is the Senate or the House re-proposing the ERA with a new deadline. Below are the names and contact information of some Congresspeople who have taken leadership on the ERA in the past and may be open to re-proposing it. You can go to the final section in this guidebook entitled “Enacting your Advocacy Project,” to receive important tips on effectively contacting your Congressperson.

Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)

Online Contact Form: murkowski.senate.gov/contact/email
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-6665

Senator Susan Collins (R-ME)

Online Contact Form: collins.senate.gov/contact
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-2523

Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD)

Online Contact Form: cardin.senate.gov/contact/email-ben
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-4524

Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY)

Online Contact Form: maloney.house.gov/contact-carolyn/email-me
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-225-7944

Representative Jackie Speier (D-CA)

Online Contact Form: speier.house.gov/email-jackie
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-225-3531

Representative Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ)

Online Contact Form: gottheimer.house.gov/contact/
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-225-4465

Representative Tom Malinowski (D-NJ)

Online Contact Form: malinowski.house.gov/contact/send-me-email
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-225-5361

Representative Donald Norcross (D-NJ)

Online Contact Form: norcross.house.gov/contact/email-me
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-225-6501

Representative Frank Pallone (D-NJ)

Online Contact Form: pallone.house.gov/contact
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-225-5671

Representative Bill Pascrell (D-NJ)

Online Contact Form: pascrell.house.gov/contact/
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-225-5751

Representative Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ)

Online Contact Form: sherrill.house.gov/contact/email-me
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-225-3186

Representative Albio Sires (D-NJ)

Online Contact Form: sires.house.gov/contact
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-226-0792

Representative Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ)

Online Contact Form: watsoncoleman.house.gov/contact/
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-225-5801

The Violence Against Women Act

What is the Violence Against Women Act?

The Violence Against Women Act was passed in 1994 to establish the Office of Violence Against Women, the National Domestic Violence Hotline, training programs on domestic abuse, and mandatory arrest laws to ensure women are protected from their abusers. These programs are designed to develop the nation's capacity to reduce domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking by strengthening services to victims and holding offenders accountable.

The Violence Against Women Act was reauthorized three times since 1994 with new provisions each time. This Act was last proposed for reauthorization in 2019 with a new provision which would bar convicted abusers from owning guns. This version did not pass because Republicans, receiving significant funding from the NRA, opposed it (Reub and Chokshi). The Act passed with a 263-158 vote in the House of Representatives, but not in the Republican majority Senate (Shabad).

This leaves us with many loopholes in the current Violence Against Women Act. In the status quo, people convicted of only misdemeanor stalking can still own a gun. Furthermore, people accused of intimate partner violence can still access guns if they are the dating partner of the victim. This is concerning because more than half of intimate partner homicides are committed by dating partners.

The VAWA: Dealing with Opposition

The Democrat View

The Violence Against Women Act was initially proposed by previous Senator Joe Biden, a Democrat from Delaware, in 1994, and has received the most support from Democrats throughout history. The Act was proposed to, in the words of Senator Biden, "make streets safer for women, make homes safer for women, and protect women's civil rights." The initial version allowed women to sue their attackers, increased penalties for abuse, created new violations, and enacted mandatory arrest laws.

In the following years, Democrats proposed re-authorizations of the Violence Against Women Act with provisions to protect the LGBTQ community, strengthen Native American courts, and provide visas to undocumented immigrants. The most recent re-authorization has not yet passed because of the controversial provision preventing convicted abusers from owning guns (Rueb and Chokshi).

The Republican View

When the VAWA was initially proposed, Republicans countered that it was unconstitutional to allow people to sue their attackers in federal court. The Supreme court confirmed this in the early 2000s. As a result, the VAWA was modified and enjoyed nearly universal support from people across the political aisle during the 2005 reauthorization.

In 2011, Republicans found fault with the new VAWA provisions to protect the LGBTQ community, strengthen Native American courts, and provide visas to undocumented immigrants. Prominent in the opposition to the VAWA was Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), who ran for Senate in 2013 on the platform of opposing this law.

Currently, Senate Republicans, led by Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), have refused to bring up the most recent reauthorization for a vote due to its gun provisions. Many Republican Senators receive funding from the NRA and do not want to risk losing their support.

Reaching Common Ground

The Violence Against Women Act's most recent reauthorization has not passed due to provisions which disallow convicted abusers and stalkers from owning guns. Many Republicans agree with these provisions, but can not openly support it because they receive funding from the NRA.

This reauthorization disallows those accused of various levels of abuse from owning a gun. To pass at least some of these provisions, the most effective way to compromise would be to draft a new VAWA which only disallows those convicted of abuse on higher counts from owning a gun, enabling our society to achieve some progress rather than freezing deliberations completely.

Who to Contact

The Senate has not yet reauthorized the most recent version of the VAWA. There have been a few key players in blocking the passage of this law. These Senators are important to contact about your perspective on the Violence Against Women Act. Below are their names, contact information, and context about what they have done for the VAWA so far. You can use this information to personalize your email to their situation and beliefs.

Senator Jodi Ernst (R-Iowa)

Online Contact Form: ernst.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-3254

Senator Ernst objected to holding a vote for this bill because it could not pass in a GOP-controlled Senate. Instead, she introduced her own variation of the ERA reauthorization. Senator Feinstein (D-California), previously proposed the original reauthorization which included limits on gun rights for abusers. Feinstein and Ernst were asked to work together on one bill which could garner the necessary 60 votes to pass. However, talks unraveled and they proposed different bills. Both women expressed resolve to work together in the future (Carney).

Senator Diane Feinstein (D-California)

Online Contact Form: feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/e-mail-me
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-3841

Senator Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky)

Online Contact Form: mcconnell.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-2541

Senator McConnell is also the Senate majority leader. For this bill to pass, he and Senator Chuck Schumer would need to agree on a date to vote on the VAWA reauthorization (Carney). However, McConnell does not support this law so he has not set a date. He deems this law, "cynically partisan," due to gun rights provisions (Belanger).

Senator John Cornyn (R-Texas)

Online Contact Form: cornyn.senate.gov/contact

D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-2934

Senator Cornyn deemed it “degrading and disrespectful” that Democrats were not willing to work on a bipartisan VAWA, stating that they would rather restore the Democrat majority Senate than pass an important law.

The Paycheck Fairness Act

What is the Paycheck Fairness Act?

The Paycheck Fairness Act was introduced into the United States Senate on April 1, 2014 by Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD). The bill was to amend close holes in the Equal Pay Act, which made unequal pay illegal but left some loopholes for discrimination. The Paycheck Fairness Act passed in the House in 2019 after being introduced in 1997 (Congress.gov). In March 2019, the House of Representatives voted 242-187 in favor of this law, but it was left unpassed in the Senate (Nilsenella).

The Paycheck Fairness Act would prohibit employers from seeking job applicant’s salary histories, not allow them to retaliate when employees disclose salary information, and allow the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to collect wage data based on sex, race, and national origin (Quinlan). All of these measures ensure greater transparency to more effectively prevent employer discrimination.

The Paycheck Fairness Act: Dealing with Opposition

Democrat views of the Equal Pay Act

The Democratic Party is known to support equal pay for equal work. Democrats believe that if women in this country are not paid equally then the economy suffers as a result. DNC Chair Tom Perez and DNC Women’s Caucus Chair Lottie Shackelford stated on Equal Pay Day, “Working women contribute \$7.6 trillion to our GDP each year. In four out of ten American households with children, the mother is either the sole or primary breadwinner. It’s long past time we make sure that women are guaranteed the same pay as men for doing the same work.”

U.S. Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) and U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) proposed The Paycheck Fairness Act to close any loopholes or escape clauses that were seen in the Equal Pay Act. which was signed by former President Barack Obama on January 29, 2009 (Democrats).

Republican views of the Equal Pay Act

In 2019, the 187 Republicans in the House of Representatives voted against the Paycheck Fairness Act, only seven of them voting to pass this bill. The bill failed due to opposition from Republicans in the Senate (Nilsenella).

Susan Collins, a Republican Senator from Maine believes that the Civil Rights Act and the Equal Pay Act of 1963 provide women enough protections in the workplace, and that a Paycheck Fairness Act isn't necessary. Many progressive leaders feel that the laws in place don't work well enough evidenced by the fact that the gender pay gap still exists. Susan Collins explained, "In other cases, [wage disparity] may be due to personal decisions that women make to leave the workforce to raise children for a number of years and then return to the workforce, for example." Many Republicans have argued that this bill makes it too easy for employees to sue businesses or corporations (Pasulka). Senate Republicans have blocked the Paycheck Fairness Act multiple times while House Republicans won't allow a vote on it (majorityleader.gov)

Finding Common Ground

In order to pass this bill, both Republicans and Democrats need to get past their differences and come to a compromise. Democrat legislators need to explain how the current equal pay bills are not protecting workers enough and address the loopholes present in the Equal Pay Act. For example, many employers argue in court that another factor (other than sex/gender) was the reason behind the pay decision. Oftentimes, companies make it seem like there is no one available for you to compare yourself to, so you can not prove you are being paid less than your counterpart.

Many Republicans argue that the pay gap exists because most women choose to leave the workforce to raise their children. Even though this may be true, it is important to note that many women don't always willingly leave their jobs to take care of their children, but are pressured to leave. Women still do the majority of child care and need to pursue fields which have more flexible hours. Mothers also face discrimination in the workforce which may make it easier to leave. Furthermore, when women have children they receive a pay cut while men have children their pay increases

significantly. A study found that fathers could get promoted even when their performance is worse because successful fathers are seen as less hostile and more likeable while successful mothers are perceived as less dedicated to their work (Hess).

Who to Contact

The Senate has not yet passed the Paycheck Fairness Act. In order to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act, you should contact the Senators who do not yet support this and urge them to do so, sharing some of the arguments above. Congresspeople can be motivated to action through both emails and messages on social media. The following Senators have opposed the Paycheck Fairness Act, blocking its passage in the Senate:

Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME)

Online Contact Form: collins.senate.gov/contact
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-2523

Sen. Deb Fischer (R-NE)

Online Contact Form: fischer.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact
D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-6551

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)

Online Contact Form: murkowski.senate.gov/contact/email
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-6665

Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY)

Online Contact Form: mccconnell.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-2541

Sen. Angus King (R-ME)

Online Contact Form: king.senate.gov/contact
D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-5344

Sen. John Thune (R-SD)

Online Contact Form: thune.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact
D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-2321

Sen. Richard Shelby (R-AL)

Online Contact Form: shelby.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/emailsensatorshelby

D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-5744

Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK)

Online Contact Form: sullivan.senate.gov/contact/email

D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-3004

Sen. Martha McSally (R-AZ)

Online Contact Form: mcsally.senate.gov/contact_martha

D.C. Office Phone #: 202-224-2235

Sen. John Boozman (R-AR)

Online Contact Form: boozman.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact

D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-4843

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR)

Online Contact Form: www.cotton.senate.gov/?p=contact

D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-2353

Sen. Cory Gardner (R-CO)

Online Contact Form: gardner.senate.gov/contact-cory/email-cory

D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-5941

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL)

Online Contact Form: rubio.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact

D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-3041

Sen. Rick Scott (R-FL)

Online Contact Form: rickscott.senate.gov/contact_rick

D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-5274

Sen. David Perdue (R-GA)

Online Contact Form: perdue.senate.gov/connect/email

D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-3521

Sen. Kelly Loeffler (R-GA)

Online Contact Form: loeffler.senate.gov

D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-3643

Senator Jodi Ernst (R-IA)

Online Contact Form: ernst.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact

D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-3254

Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KA)

Online Contact Form: roberts.senate.gov/public/?p=EmailPat

D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-4774

Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KA)

Online Contact Form: moran.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/e-mail-jerry

D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-4774

Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY)

Online Contact Form: paul.senate.gov/connect/email-rand

D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-4343

Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA)

Online Contact Form: cassidy.senate.gov/contact

D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-5824

Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA)

Online Contact Form: kennedy.senate.gov/public/email-me

D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-4623

Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS)

Online Contact Form: wicker.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact

D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-6253

Sen. Cindy Hyte-Smith (R-MS)

Online Contact Form: wicker.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact

D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-6253

Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO)

Online Contact Form: blunt.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact-roy

D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-5721

Sen. Josh Hawley (R-MO)

Online Contact Form: hawley.senate.gov/contact-senator-hawley

D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-6154

Sen. Ben Sasse (R-NE)

Online Contact Form: sasse.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email-ben

D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-4224

Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC)

Online Contact Form: burr.senate.gov/contact/email

D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-3154

Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC)

Online Contact Form: tillis.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email-me

D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-6342

Sen. John Inhofe (R-OK)

Online Contact Form: inhofe.senate.gov/contact
D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-4721

Sen. James Lankford (R-OK)

Online Contact Form: lankford.senate.gov/contact/email
D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-5754

Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA)

Online Contact Form: toomey.senate.gov/?p=contact
D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-4254

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC)

Online Contact Form: lgraham.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/e-mail-senator-gr...
D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-5972

Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC)

Online Contact Form: scott.senate.gov/contact/email-me
D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-6121

Sen. Mike Rounds (R-SD)

Online Contact Form: rounds.senate.gov/contact/email-mike
D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-5842

Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN)

Online Contact Form: alexander.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Email
D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-4944

Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN)

Online Contact Form: blackburn.senate.gov/email-me
D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-3344

Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX)

Online Contact Form: cornyn.senate.gov/contact
D.C. Office Phone #: (202)-224-2934

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX)

Online Contact Form: cruz.senate.gov/?p=form&id=16
D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-5922

Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT)

Online Contact Form: lee.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact
D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-5444

Sen. Mitt Romney (R-UT)

Online Contact Form: romney.senate.gov/contact-senator-romney
D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-5251

Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)

Online Contact Form: wcapito.senate.gov/contact/contact-shelley
D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-6472

Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI)

Online Contact Form: ronjohnson.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email-the-sena...
D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-5323

Sen. Mike Enzi (R-WY)

Online Contact Form: enzi.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact?p=e-mail-sen...
D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-3424

Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY)

Online Contact Form: barrasso.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact-form
D.C. Office Phone #: (202) 224-6441

The “Walking While Trans” Ban

Overview

Officially known as the Loitering for the Purpose of Prostitution law, this piece of legislation in New York State allows police to profile womxn who are standing on sidewalks and street corners, with the suspicion that they are participating in sex work. As a result, many innocent womxn, especially trans womxn and BIPOC womxn, are harassed and arrested because of what they might be wearing, their physical appearance, or where they are standing.

A bill to repeal the “Walking While Trans” Ban was proposed by NY State Senator Brad Hoylman and Assemblymember Amy Paulin in 2019, and it has just recently begun to gain momentum. It has majority support in both the Assembly and the Senate; however, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins have not yet moved it to the floor for a vote.

1. In 2018 there was a 120% increase in arrests under this law, with 47% of all arrests across New York state happening in Queens. Black and Latinx women, including transgender people, remain the most impacted.
2. In 2018, 91% of people arrested under this law were Black and Latinx people, and 80% identified as women.
3. More than 60% of transgender New Yorkers recently surveyed had previously been subject to police harassment and misconduct, including incidences of sexual assault

The “Walking While Trans” Ban: Dealing with Opposition

Democrat View

Mainstream society has marginalized, criminalized, and denied the rights and concerns of the transgender community. As a result of being bullied as children, having their gender identity questioned and denied by parents and/or authority figures, experiencing workplace discrimination and being unable to pursue many careers due to the extensive obstacles they

experience as part of this community, transgender womxn often turn to sex work as the only way to survive or pay for gender-affirming surgeries. As a result, the stereotype that all transgender womxn are involved in sex work has allowed for legislators and police officers to criminalize the very existence of trans womxn. As trans womxn are more criminalized, more of them are unable to support themselves and turn to sex work, creating a cycle that is difficult to break while laws like the Walking While Trans Ban exist.

The Democratic party at large generally acknowledges these challenges that transgender womxn face, and as a result, many, if not most, New York State Democrats, activists and legislators, support repealing the Walking While Trans ban. Currently, there are two bills in the New York State Legislature that, if passed, would repeal the Walking While Trans Ban: Bill 645 in the State Assembly and Bill 2253 in the State Senate. The majority of Senate Democrats are in favor of the bill, and significant progress has been made in the Assembly.

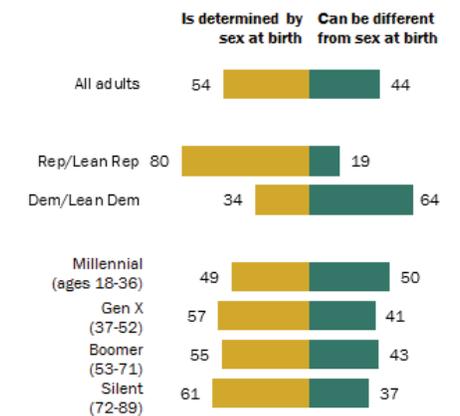
Republican/Conservative View

Republicans, unlike Democrats, tend to lean towards transphobic public policies and are less open to discussions about gender fluidity. According to the Pew Research Center, only 20% of Republicans believe that someone’s gender can be different than the gender they were assigned at birth, while 64% of Democrats agree with this statement.

While many democrats oppose the idea of a gender binary, this idea is comforting to many Republicans and it makes many Republicans uncomfortable to recognize the legitimacy of Trans people, and the legitimacy of their concerns, and because Republican ideals

Political party is closely tied to views on transgender issues

% saying that whether a person is a man or a woman ...



Note: Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer not shown. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 8-21 and Sept. 14-28, 2017.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

center around safety, many Republicans are opposed to repealing the Walking While Trans Ban as a result of these feelings. Republicans also do not always accept the idea that transgender womxn are cornered into participating in sex work and hold that it is more important to uphold policies that criminalize using sex as a way to make money. Because of these obstacles, the Bills proposed to repeal the Walking While Trans Ban have faced challenges in the State Assembly.

Compromise

Despite the common notion that Republicans and Democrats will never be able to agree on Transgender rights, it takes time and patience. Helping Democrats recognize that Republicans feel internally threatened by the idea of rejecting the gender binary, and helping Republicans recognize that the transgender community has been extensively harmed by their feeling threatened is the first step in creating more harmony on the gender issue within politics.

Who to Contact

Contacting Key Players

A bill to repeal the Walking While Trans Ban has already gained majority support in the House and Senate in New York. To pass, the leaders of each governing body need to move it to the floor for a vote. Emailing these people can put pressure on them to make this bill a priority.

New York Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins

Email address: scousins@nysenate.gov

Albany Office Phone #: (518)-455-2585

New York Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie

Email address: speaker@nyassembly.gov

Albany Office Phone #: 518-455-3791

Establishing Intersectionality

As you are formulating your advocacy project, it is important that you not only approach the issue from your own experience, but from the perspective of others. Embracing Intersectionality as a fundamental part of feminism, rather than simply activist jargon, is what will guarantee that your project contributes to a more inclusive feminist community.

This community should be structured around the inclusion of all womxn. This community should not only focus on womxnhood, but on how womxn experience all forms of oppression and approach advocacy without excluding those of different backgrounds or political affiliations. At the Bipartisan Feminist Project, we are trying to encourage the growth of this feminist community. We hope that through your own advocacy measures you will be able to do the same.

I have included several resources about intersectionality and how to incorporate its ideas into your advocacy efforts that I hope you will find enlightening and useful.

Sincerely,
Althea Collier
Director of the BIFP Advocacy Team

A History of Intersectionality

Excerpt from Intersectionality in Context: Three Cases for the Specificity of Intersectionality from the Perspective of Feminists in the Americas by Sara Diaz, Rebecca Clark Mane, and Martha González.

“Within feminist organizing, feminists of color have struggled to have the particularities of their oppression as raced and classed women acknowledged and fully supported by white feminists. For example, Sojourner Truth is credited with an early version of intersectionality. When she asked white feminists at a conference in 1851 “Ar’n’t I a woman?” she challenged them to see her as not only a black person, but also as a woman (Hill Collins, 1991: 14).

As women of color engaged with the white feminist movement more than one hundred years later, they found themselves compelled to continue to challenge white women in this way. Gloria Hull, Patricia Bell Scott, and Barbara Smith pointed to the nearly invisible political position of black women in the title of their 1982 anthology “All the Women are White, All the Blacks are Men, but Some of Us are Brave.” For nearly 160 years, black feminists have insisted on being seen by arguing that their social, political, economic situation cannot be understood in terms of only one category of identity. This has been so central to black feminism that Patricia Hill Collins (1991) identified “the interlocking nature of oppressions” as one of its key themes in *Black Feminist Thought*. While the notion of intersectionality dates back to the Civil War era, Kimberlé Crenshaw is most often credited as the creator of this theory. What Crenshaw did was apply an idea central to Black feminist thought to critical legal studies and name it “intersectionality.” Critical race feminist approaches like Crenshaw’s were important because they were able to show that the notion of interlocking oppression is about more than identity, but has structural, legal, and material implications for African American women (Crenshaw et al., 1995). In this sense, intersectionality has never really been about identity, but rather about the politics of difference when that difference does not fit neatly into a single category.

In the “second wave” women’s liberation movement, women of color found white feminists’ notion of universal sisterhood oppressive and offensive. According to Elizabeth Spelman (1988), a white ally who has worked closely with Maria Lugones, the problem with universal sisterhood is that it is concerned only with the oppression that women experience as women. The notion of universal sisterhood rests on two assumptions—women share a common oppression as women and, as the root of all other forms of domination, gender oppression is the most important to eradicate.” (when really, feminism should acknowledge the intersecting and overlapping nature of the feminist movement.)



Patricia Hill Collins

An American sociologist specializing in the intersection of race, class and gender. She has published several books and is a leader, thinker, and academic in the area of Black feminism. This is an excerpt from a book she wrote:

Why U.S. Black Feminist Thought?

Black feminism remains important because U.S. Black women constitute an oppressed group. As a collectivity, U.S. Black women participate in a dialectical relationship linking African-American women’s oppression and activism. Dialectical relationships of this sort mean that two parties are opposed and opposite. As long as Black women’s subordination within intersecting oppressions of race, class, gender, sexuality, and nation persists, Black feminism as an activist response to that oppression will remain needed.

In a similar fashion, the overarching purpose of U.S. Black feminist thought is also to resist oppression, both its practices and the ideas that justify it. If intersecting oppressions did not exist, Black feminist thought and similar oppositional knowledges would be unnecessary. As a critical social theory, Black feminist thought aims to empower African-American women within the context of social injustice sustained by intersecting oppressions. Since Black women cannot be fully empowered unless intersecting oppressions themselves are eliminated, Black feminist thought supports broad principles of social justice that transcend U.S. Black women’s particular needs.

Because so much of U.S. Black feminism has been filtered through the prism of the U.S. context, its contours have been greatly affected by the specificity of American multiculturalism (Takaki 1993). In particular, U.S. Black feminist thought and practice respond to a fundamental contradiction of U.S. society. On the one hand, democratic promises of individual freedom, equality under the law, and social justice are made to all American citizens. Yet on the other hand, the reality of differential group treatment based on race, class, gender, sexuality, and citizenship status persists. Groups organized around race, class, and gender in and of themselves are not inherently a problem. However, when African-Americans, poor people, women, and other groups discriminated against see little hope for group-based advancement, this situation constitutes social injustice.

Within this overarching contradiction, U.S. Black women encounter a distinctive set of social practices that accompany our particular history within a unique matrix of domination characterized by intersecting oppressions. Race is far from being the only significant marker of group difference—class, gender, sexuality, religion, and citizenship status all matter greatly in the United States (Andersen and Collins 1998). Yet for African-American women, the effects of institutionalized racism remain visible and palpable. Moreover, the institutionalized racism that African-American women encounter relies heavily on racial segregation and accompanying discriminatory practices designed to deny U.S. Blacks equitable treatment. Despite important strides to desegregate U.S. society since 1970, racial segregation remains deeply entrenched in housing, schooling, and employment (Massey and Denton 1993). For many African-American women, racism is not something that exists in the distance. We encounter racism in everyday situations in workplaces, stores, schools, housing, and daily social interaction (St. Jean and Feagin 1998). Most Black women do not have the opportunity to befriend White women and men as neighbors, nor do their children attend school with White children. Racial segregation remains a fundamental feature of the U.S. social landscape, leaving many African-Americans with the belief that “the more things change, the more they stay the same” (Collins 1998a, 11–43). Overlaying these persisting inequalities is a rhetoric of color blindness designed to render these social inequalities invisible. In a context where many believe that to talk of race fosters racism, equality allegedly lies in treating everyone the same. Yet as Kimberle Crenshaw (1997) points out, “it is fairly obvious that treating different things the same can generate as much inequality as treating the same things differently” (p. 285).

Enacting your Advocacy Project

Advocacy is the power to use an understanding of the world of affairs to influence decision-makers to support one’s desired cause.

This section is composed of advice for devising and launching your advocacy campaign gathered directly from Bipartisan Feminist Project interviews with federal legislators and rigorous research from our Team, including:

- Routes of Communication to influence decision-makers
- Advocacy Resources to make your cause stand out to decision-makers
- Effective Discourse to establish bipartisan advocacy

What does an Advocacy Campaign Look Like?

Based on past campaigns and shared experience from Congresswoman Kathleen Rice of New York’s 4th Congressional District and Nassau County Legislator Josh Lafazan, BIFP devised a list of features which makes an advocacy campaign impact government and improve people’s lives. You may decide to make change through an educational campaign, email/call-in campaign, or a combination of the two. To develop a comprehensive and effective campaign, you should:

1. Include a Call to Action

A call to action is important both when sending emails to legislators and garnering civilian supporters for your cause. You can make your email stand out to legislators by not only stating your argument, but including attachments which convey exactly what you are asking of them. First, you should specify in the text of your email what you want them to do and when - for instance, ask Senators to prioritize a vote on the deadline extension of the ERA. Second, if your bill has not already been proposed, include an attachment of a similar bill which has been passed in another state or county. Research memos and petitions which endorse your cause can also persuade legislators to support you.

You also need a call to action for your audience. If you have an Instagram page, what do you want your followers to do? Should they email their legislator? Explaining what they should do and why will help you establish a team. The more people who support you, the more you will impact the government in the future.

Suggested Resources:

Canva

canva.com

Canva is a free design website to produce eye-catching graphics for Instagram.

ResistBot

resist.bot

ResistBot enables you to call your supporters to action with ease and efficiency. Once you write an email, ResistBot will enable your supporters to send this email by simply sending a text message.

Google Docs

Google Docs enables you to produce a link to a document which includes the email to send to legislators and the names of legislators to whom you should send it. This link is a window to join your cause for your supporters on social media and off.

LinkTree

Linktr.ee

LinkTree enables you to place multiple links in your bio - from educational resources to Google Docs links.

2. Determine your Audience

Who composes your audience is dependent on your environment and the nature of your cause. It may be difficult at first to find people invested in your cause; however, as you go along, you should pinpoint the types of people who are the most invested. These people may be women in high school, other feminist organizations, or Republican feminists. You should gear your call to action and social media to attract these groups.

Once you have a team, you should learn how to make your cause appeal to people across the political spectrum. There are several strategies to achieve this in Chapter 1 of this Guidebook, "Overcoming Partisanship."

Suggested resources:

Slack

Slack enables people and groups to create workspaces, many of which enable networking among different organizations. One prominent workspace is hosted by npocore.com - here you can meet organizations to endorse your cause by signing your petition or endorsing letters to Congress. You can also create your own workspace to communicate with your audience.

3. Distribute Relatable Resources

Behind each advocacy project is a well-developed message which both fuels advocates and can be broken down into catchy phrases and handouts to attract supporters. You should develop a page-long history of your cause to share on your website, Instagram, or via email to provide context to potential supporters. This history can be crystallized into digestible facts or handouts to make people remember you. Consider the memorable facts on ERACoalition.org: "94% of Americans support the ERA," and "Every 92 seconds an American is sexually assaulted."

4. Set Specific Goals

A campaign's goals should be rooted in a thorough understanding of the cause. Advocates should understand the allies and opposition of their cause as well as what influencers shape public opinion about the cause (Groves) and use this information to decide which legislators to contact, what information to include, and what the expected result will be. In the case of the Equal Rights Amendment, for instance, the main barrier to the Amendment's passage is that Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has not brought up the deadline extension for a vote. This reveals that emails targeting McConnell and other Senate Republicans will have the most impact.

Suggested Resources:

Power Mapping

neaedjustice.org/power-mapping-101/

Power mapping is a tool which activists use to identify the stakeholders in their cause and the barriers to change. Using a graph, you can plot interest groups based on how much power they hold over the issue and whether or not they agree with you - providing insight on how and when to pressure various groups to make change.

Email Format

Subject: (the topic of your email or the bill you are advocating for)

Dear (Representative/Senator/Legislator) (Last name):

My name is _____ and I am __[where you live, information about your campaign, or your relation to them]__.

1. State specifically how you are asking them to support a law. Do you want them to propose it? Do you want them to vote for it? Choose 2 arguments to support the law for which you are advocating
2. Explain how this law personally impacts you, your community, or someone you know.
3. Address reservations they may have about the law. Provide background research proving this bill can be a bipartisan issue.
4. Reiterate your call to action and offer to meet with them to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

[attachment of a research memo or petition in support of this law]

Call Script

Calls are often more effective than emails, as you may be connected directly with a legislator's secretary or aide. Developing a call script for your supporters to read makes it easier to attract supporters and motivate them to action.

Hi, my name is _____ and I am __[identify yourself as a constituent of their state, county, or country]__.

State specifically how you are asking them to support a law. Do you want them to propose it? Do you want them to vote for it? Choose 1-2 arguments to support the law for which you are advocating

Explain how this law personally impacts you, your community, or someone you know.

Address reservations they may have about the law. Provide background research proving this bill can be a bipartisan issue. You can also take this chance to ask questions about the legislator's position on this law

Reiterate your call to action and offer to send them an email with more information or meet again to discuss further

Thank them for their time.

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