



GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

Mary Ellen Brock, President

LEGISLATIVE ACTION SELECTION PROJECT

Legislative action and voicing our opinions on issues reaches back to the beginnings of GFWC. When Jane Cunningham Croly was denied tickets to hear Charles Dickens speak in New York City, she formed the Sorosis Club, which directly led to formation of the General Federation of Women's Clubs in 1890. To honor our ancestor sisters, continuing our Legislative Action is one of the goals of the 2018-2020 administration.

At each Region Meeting, the Bills below will be presented. Please read the information presented on all five before the presentation. Take time to look up any further information you need. There are several helpful web sites – www.Govtrack.org, www.congress.gov or any search engine - and you can contact a member of the GFWC Legislative/Public Policy Committee or the GFWC Resolutions Committee for help. Following debate at the Region Meeting, you will be asked to vote for the two that are most important to you. The votes will be held at every Region Meeting and tallied nationwide. The two that receive the most votes will be used to launch a GFWC member wide legislative action campaign.

Information below is current as of September 2018.

1. **HR 6518** **Miranda's Law**

Last Action: 07/25/2018 Introduced and referred to House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Bill will:

- Require the Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration agency to implement a nationwide employer notification service (ENS) for buses;
- Demand automatic notification of driver violations to school districts and school bus companies within 24 hours allowing immediate action to keep safe drivers off the road and away from children; and
- Make the employer notification service mandatory for all school bus drivers across the nation.

2. **HR 502** **Land and Water Conservation Fund Permanent Reauthorization**

Last Action: Referred to House Committees on Natural Resources, Federal Lands, and Water, Power and Oceans

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is one of America's most successful conservation programs and is funded at no expense to tax payers through a portion of federal oil and gas royalties. No less than 1.5% of the annual authorized funding amount or \$10 million, whichever is greater, shall be used for projects that secure recreational public access to existing federal public land for hunting, fishing, and other recreational purposes.

Bill amends the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 to make permanent the authorization for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and will prevent deposits from the LWCF from being diverted from its original purposes.

3. HR 4893; S 2349 Improve Data on Sexual Violence Act (identical bills)

Last Action: May 16, 2018 Passed Senate

Bill directs the Office of Management and Budget to establish an interagency working group to study federal efforts to collect data on sexual violence and to make recommendations on efforts to coordinate sexual violence data collection to produce complementary information, without compromising programmatic needs.

The working group shall consider:

- What activity constitutes different acts of sexual violence,
- Whether reports that use the same terms for acts of sexual violence are collecting the same data on these acts,
- Whether the context which led to such an act should impact how that act is accounted for in reports,
- Whether the data collected is presented in a way that allows the general public to understand what acts of sexual violence are included in each measurement, and
- Steps that agencies that compile reports relating to sexual violence can take to avoid double counting incidents.

4. HR 6649; S3304 3D Printed Gun Safety Act

To amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the publication of 3D printer plans for the printing of firearms, and for other purposes. On June 7, 2013, an assailant used a gun he had constructed by himself to kill his father, brother, and 3 other people at Santa Monica College in California. The person had failed a background check when he tried to purchase a gun from a licensed gun dealer. The gun he used was made from an unfinished AR–15-style receiver, like a receiver that can now be made with a 3D printer.

Last Action: Introduced and referred to House Committee on the Judiciary on August 3, 2018.

5. HR 4909; S2495 STOP School Violence Act

Last action Passed the House March 14 by a nearly unanimous 407–10 vote; 03/14/2018, referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary. Hearings held.

The Act would appropriate \$50 million per year for:

- Schools to develop “threat assessment systems” in line with recommendations from the FBI and Secret Services, in hopes of stopping such would-be killers before they commit acts of violence.
- Anonymous reporting systems to be implemented for use by students, teachers, or others to contact law enforcement about potential threats.
- Improving school security using technologies and increased personnel.
- None of the money in the bill would be used to arm teachers, the most controversial gun-related provision proposed in the wake of the shooting, one endorsed by President Trump.

The House bill was introduced by Rep. John Rutherford (R-FL4) in late January, about two weeks before the Parkland high school shooting in Rutherford’s home state. It did not take place in his home district, located in northeastern Florida bordering Georgia, hundreds of miles from the southern part of the state where the massacre occurred.