



PO Box 10013, Raleigh, NC 27605
www.ncwu.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 5, 2005

CONTACT:
Veronica Butcher (919) 475-7858

NC Women United Unveils 2005 Legislative Report Card

Report reflects the legislative priorities identified by the coalition as key to promoting women's equality, including health care access, civic participation and equality, economic self-sufficiency, and preventing violence against women. Triangle area women legislators honored for their leadership on advancing NCWU's policy priorities.

Raleigh--North Carolina Women United today released the results of their 2005 Legislative Report Card. In an effort to promote progressive public policy, NC Women United, a coalition of organizations and individuals working to achieve the full political, social, and economic equality of all women across North Carolina, has evaluated the progress of the 2005 General Assembly. Of the 23 bills that NCWU supported, 11 passed, 7 failed, and 5 are eligible for the 2006 Legislative Session.

"NC Women United is a key player in making sure that women participate fully in the political process and make their priorities and views heard," stated Representative Deborah Ross of Wake County. She spoke today at a NCWU press conference held in Raleigh, and was joined by Senator Ellie Kinnaird (D-Orange), Representatives Linda Coleman (D-Wake), Verla Insko (D-Orange), and Jennifer Weiss (D-Wake). Kinnaird, Coleman, Insko, Ross, and Weiss are among the legislators being honored by NCWU for their courageous leadership on behalf of North Carolina women and families. Because of their efforts, survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault are better protected; NC state employees, many of whom are women, will receive an increase in wages; and more of the state's poorest families will be able to access Medicaid.

"NC Women United is the only broad based statewide coalition of women making a difference in public policy in North Carolina," said Veronica Butcher, vice president of the non-profit, volunteer-run group. "Our advocacy is centered on our grassroots," added Butcher. "The legislative report card reflects the priorities identified by our member organizations and those identified through community-based Women's Agenda Assemblies that enable more women to get involved with public policy."

As a consensus-based coalition of more than 40 organizations, NC Women United is committed to advancing public policy and laws that increase access to health care, ensure civic participation and equality, promote economic self-sufficiency, and eliminate violence against women. NCWU works to build women's power through grassroots activism, community organizing, legislative advocacy, and engagement in the political process.

###