



The Lee County Chapter of the National Organization for Women is here to speak about several issues that impact women and girls.

- This is the year that Florida could become the 38th and final state to **ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution**. Other southern states have refused to endorse the ERA but Florida is not the rest of the South. The citizens of Florida need Constitutional protections that must be granted in our Constitution. (HCR239/SCR392)
- 2019 was not a good year for **women's healthcare and reproductive rights** in this state. Bills have already been filed that would essentially prohibit abortion after the first six weeks of pregnancy, a time when most women do not even realize they are pregnant and certainly before they could consider their choices regarding a possible termination of pregnancy. This is poorly conceived legislation and, if passed, would force the state, one again, to spend taxpayer money to defend it in court.
- **Abortion Restrictions for Young People** (SB404/HB265) is calling for minors to obtain parental consent prior to receiving an abortion. Most young people already seek the counsel of their parent or guardian when it comes to a decision like this. If they don't there's usually a good reason. That's why health professionals oppose these laws. Requiring this burdensome restriction will impact young people who already face obstacles to accessing care.
- NOW encourages you to **support increases in the state's minimum wage** from its current \$8.75/hour to at least \$12.17/hour, the wage considered to be a livable wage for a single adult in Florida. Too many hard-working Floridians are holding down two and three jobs just to survive.
- We support the use of federal funds available **for extending healthcare coverage for eligible Floridians** and the full funding of hospital services reimbursed by **Medicaid**. Floridians are already taxed for these services but are not receiving all of the benefits. This makes no sense from a fiscal point of view and even less when families desperately need this assistance.