**2018 Legislative Suggestions**

**Marry@18**

FLNOW supports a bill to outlaw child marriage in Florida.

Marriage should not used as a tool to disipline or punish young girls. At this time there is no age limit for a forced marriage with parental or judicial consent.

Often these forced marriages are between young girls and men at least 10 years older. FLNOW feels that this is legalized pedophilia.

Often pregnancy is a reason for forced marriages. Statistics have shown that a single mother has much better economic outcomes than a married young mother.

The single mother often remains in school and get a job to support her and her child.

The married mother quits school, is isolated in the home and has a 70% - 80% chance of getting a divorce which she cannot get until she is 18, when she is legally old enough to hire a lawyer.

Child marriage undermines girls’ health, education, economic opportunities and increases their risk of experiencing violence.

**Why FL women don’t want to continue a pregnancy**

Why do pregnant women chose to not have a child in Florida?

Low cost or free options to healthcare, prenatal care, maternity leave and parenting classes are not widely available.

Laws should be created to encourage and support the most vulnerable among us, raise the minimum wage, provide low cost birthcontrol and healthcare to all.

We need legislators who don’t propagate lies about terminating a pregnancy or how “easy” it would be to give a child up for adoption.

Florida’s adoption and foster care system is broken, foster kids are being warehoused and dumped on the streets at 18 with no support system.

A woman’s decision about her pregnancy is a private one, and should be made with imput from her family, faith and doctor.

The state of Florida only has the responsibility to support her in the decision she has made by not creating barriers of shame, punishment or unconstitutional laws.