

About SPAC

SPAC is the State Public Affairs Committee of the Junior Leagues of New Jersey. It is a statewide, non-partisan committee made up of representatives from each of the eight Junior Leagues in New Jersey who join together to take action on select state and national public issues. Specifically, SPAC advocates for initiatives and legislation to improve the quality of life for women and children; improve the quality of education; and improve the environment.

The Junior League is an international organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

With a combined membership of 3,000 women in New Jersey and with the use of a range of advocacy tools, SPAC is able to improve the lives of women, children and the environment in the state.

SPAC represents the following Junior Leagues of New Jersey:

- Bergen County
- Elizabeth-Plainfield
- Greater Princeton
- Monmouth County
- Montclair-Newark
- Morristown
- Oranges-Short Hills
- Summit

For more information
please visit NJ SPAC
on the web:

www.jlnjspac.org



**JUNIOR LEAGUES
OF NEW JERSEY**

Women building better communities

**State
Public Affairs
Committee**



CURRENT LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Human Trafficking

For many years SPAC has been concerned about human trafficking in New Jersey – a portal state for traffickers. In 2005 we partnered with the International Institute of NJ to hold a conference at Rider University, which drew attention to the issue, and helped inform law enforcement on effective action.

SPAC has advocated for measures to improve access to information for victims of human trafficking, such as helping to put together a bill to create a statewide 24-Hour Hotline. SPAC has worked with NJ Congressman Chris Smith to address the problem of “modern day slavery”.



Congressman Chris Smith, the author of key legislation on Human Trafficking, discussed future initiatives with SPAC members at a meeting in Washington.

Recess in Schools

SPAC became aware that in some parts of New Jersey, recess was no longer being offered to students. It supported a bill to establish a Task Force to study the importance of recess for children, to discover how widespread the problem is, and to consider making recess mandatory in NJ schools.

Umbilical Cord Blood

In 2005, NJ was the first to create a statewide, publicly funded umbilical cord blood bank. Cord blood stem cells treat several cancers, sickle cell anemia and immune disorders. 2007 legislation requires healthcare providers to inform pregnant patients about life-saving donations to the NJ Cord Blood Bank. SPAC is working to improve the implementation of this law.

Childhood Obesity

Along with Junior Leagues throughout the country, SPAC seeks to promote healthy eating habits through the “Kids in the Kitchen” program.

Children in Foster Care

SPAC is currently investigating the effects of the reform of the Division of Youth & Family Services (DYFS) on the quality of foster care, and is mounting a campaign to ensure the reforms are fully funded.

Ovarian Cancer

Over the years, SPAC has been supportive of a number of measures mandating that insurance companies pay for screening of cancers in women. In the case of ovarian cancer, SPAC recognized the life-saving potential of screening for symptomatic women, and also saw that highlighting symptoms could lead to early detection and good outcomes.

Domestic Violence

Combating violence against women has been a long-held position of SPAC. We support legislation that seeks to assist victims of domestic violence in escaping dangerous situations, and assist them in finding work and keeping their jobs as a means of gaining economic freedom and thus real freedom from their abusers.

