

Basis for Public Policy Priorities

AAUW California's Biennial Public Policy Priorities are consistent with national AAUW Public Policy Principles which can be found on the website www.aauw.org.

Legislative activism has a long history in AAUW. Members first lobbied for women's suffrage in 1892 and have continued to be responsive to the critical issues of the times.

The AAUW CA Public Policy program supports its mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

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**Promoting
Equity and Education
for
Women and Girls**



AAUW California

Public Policy Priorities 2017 - 2019



AAUW CA Public Policy Action Priorities

2017 - 2019

The AAUW CA Public Policy program supports its mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research, and complements the national Public Policy program. AAUW CA's priorities for action are chosen according to the criteria of viability, critical need, and strong member support.

To achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women, AAUW CA advocates:

- Pay equity, fairness in compensation, benefits, and economic justice.
- Equitable access and advancement in employment, including vigorous enforcement of employment antidiscrimination statutes.
- Strengthening retirement benefits and programs, including pension improvements, and protecting Social Security from privatization or reduction in benefits.
- Programs that provide women with education, including financial literacy, training, and support for success in the work force.
- Strengthening programs that encourage career development and earning potential, including career and technical education, access to postsecondary education, and welfare job training.
- Policies that promote and support work-life balance, including child and dependent care.

To support a strong system of high quality public education, AAUW CA advocates:

- Adequate and equitable funding for high quality public education for all students, including preschool.
- Increased support for programs that break through barriers for women and girls in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields.
- Protection of programs that meet the needs of girls and women in all levels of education, including sexual health education.
- Vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education.
- Opposition to the use of public funds for nonpublic elementary and secondary education and for charter schools that do not adhere to the same civil rights and accountability standards as required of other public schools.
- Support for adequate funding that gives women and disadvantaged populations access to higher education, including two-year degree programs and vocational training.

To guarantee equality, individual rights and social justice for a diverse society, AAUW CA advocates:

- Self-determination of one's reproductive health decisions.
- Freedom from violence and fear of violence, including bullying and sexual harassment, human trafficking, and gun violence, in all aspects of life.
- Increased access to quality, affordable health care, and family planning services.
- Strengthening California programs, including affordable housing, that improve the lives of children in families living at or below the poverty level.
- Support United Nations programs that address human rights and women's and girls' issues.
- Freedom in definition of self and family, and guarantee of civil rights for all family structures.
- Vigorous protection of and full access to civil and constitutional rights for all.