



Public Policy News

A monthly dispatch from the AAUW California Public Policy Team

NEW TITLE IX RULES

Biden Admin. Releases Long-Awaited Guidance

HOT OFF THE PRESSES! On Friday, April 19, 2024, the Biden Administration released long-awaited guidance on the application and administration of Title IX. The rule changes (1) rework Trump Administration guidance on the handling of campus sexual assault, providing expanded protections for survivors; and (2) expand Title IX protections against sex/gender-based harassment and discrimination to protect members of the LGBTQ+ community. Expansion of rights to the LGBTQ+ community via Title IX aligns this federal law with current interpretation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, which prohibits workplace discrimination on the basis of sex/gender. **AAUW national serves in a gender equity coalition supporting these changes.**

Stay Tuned! It will be a busy summer. We are anticipating needing your help to push back on challenges to this new guidance. The June PP News will include an article that expands on all of this information, and provides updates on impending legal challenges. Thank you in advance!

ACTION ALERTS!

Test Out Resistbot by Clicking Below

If you've signed up for action alerts, thank you! **You should get ready for a busy summer and fall.** Thankfully, a lot of our priority legislation is moving along smoothly, so we have not yet reached out to you to act. However, **we do invite you to test out one arm of our alert system: Resistbot.** Click on **THIS LINK** and "sign" the petition in support of SB 554. When you "sign," Resistbot will prompt you, through your preferred text message system, to send a letter with the petition text to your CA State Senator. Be sure to check it out!

WHERE IS THAT?

Find All Things Public Policy

Key links to your public policy resources:

- [Google Workspace](#)
- [AAUW Policy Leaders Manual from National](#)
- [Branch liaisons](#)
- Contact us at publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org
- **Tell us about your branch public policy events** by filling out this [form](#).
- **Sign up for CA Legislative Action Alerts [HERE!](#)**

NEXT MEETING FOR BRANCH PUBLIC POLICY CHAIRS

Wednesday 06/05 @ 2pm PT

Click [HERE](#) for meeting information.

2024-2025 branch public policy chairs' meeting schedule will be released in July/August 2024.

SIGN UP FOR ACTION ALERTS [HERE.](#)

click here!

[2024 Bill Tracker](#)

ARTICLE FOR YOUR JUNE BRANCH NEWSLETTERS

AAUW California Advocates for Its Priorities with the Legislature

By Sue Miller and Joy Frew, AAUW California Public Policy Committee

This year's Lobby Days event, held on April 2nd and 3rd, was exciting and action-packed. 140 women on 43 teams from 63 AAUW California branches met with 39 Assembly offices and 27 Senate offices. 11 meetings took place in person in Sacramento, 55 meetings took place via Zoom, and the majority took place without a hitch.

While most meetings were conducted with legislative staff, we were able to hold eight meetings with the members themselves - five Assemblymembers and three Senators. We were not able to get a meeting for Zoom Team 7 with Assemblymember Hart, but they did even better when one of their members, Judy Frost from the Santa Maria branch, joined Assemblymember Hart on a hike and lobbied him on the hiking trail.

We were happy to learn that our organization was known to many of the legislative staff and legislators with whom our members met. Some staff had looked up our website prior to meeting and were impressed with programs such as Tech Trek and Gov Trek. Most were supportive of advancing women's equity.

The reception of our "Top 3" bills - AB 2843, AB 2326 and AB 2099 - was generally favorable. The offices were more familiar with the first two, both of which are sponsored by AAUW California. AB 2099 was new to them. You can find more information on these and all the bills we are supporting [HERE](#).

In short, AB 2843 eliminates cost sharing, including deductibles, from being imposed on any rape survivor seeking medical treatment following a rape. Insurers will be required to cover the full cost of medical care. AB 2326 requires the chancellors or presidents from the University of California (UC), the California State University (CSU), and the California Community Colleges, to provide an annual report publicly and orally to the Assembly and Senate Subcommittees on Education Finance on each institution's compliance with Title IX, including sexual assault. AB 2099 would make it possible for the D.A. to file a felony charge for sharing personal information or images of reproductive health care providers or patients, including on the internet, with the intent of causing them harm, if the posting and subsequent action results in bodily injury.

During our Lobby Days event, we were able to get our message across to those who make our laws and to highlight AAUW, our mission, accomplishments and the benefits we bring to our communities throughout California. It was an empowering exercise in advocacy and for those of you who participated, AAUW California thanks you!

Check out our Public Policy Page on the [AAUW California Website](#). You can read our current 2023-2025 Public Policy Priorities, which can be viewed [HERE](#), find information on the Legislative Agenda, Lobby Days, the Legislative Calendar, and Coalitions with other organizations. You can also learn the latest about the School Board Project!

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS A TEXT-BASED COPY OF THE NL ARTICLE](#)