



# AAUW California

## How to be an Effective Lobby Days Advocate

March 20, 2023



# Welcome

## Presentation materials:

- Download the presentation from the AAUW California website home page.
- The meeting recording, a summary Q&A document and example documents will be posted following the meeting.

## Questions:

- Use the Q&A function to pose a question. We'll stop periodically to answer general questions.
- Chat has been disabled.

The screenshot shows a Zoom 'Question and Answer' window. At the top, there are two tabs: 'All questions (1)' and 'My questions (1)'. A red dashed arrow points from the text 'Check here for answers to all questions.' to the 'All questions (1)' tab. Below the tabs, a message from 'You' at 09:45 AM asks, 'Where can I download the presentation?'. A 'Collapse all (1)' button is visible. Below that, a message from 'AAUW California' at 09:46 AM is shown. At the bottom, there is a text input field with the placeholder 'Type your question here...'. A red dashed arrow points from the text 'Type your question here.' to this input field. In the bottom left corner, there is a message: 'Chat has been disabled. Use the Q&A function'. At the bottom of the window, there are two circular icons: 'Chat' (highlighted with a yellow circle) and 'Q&A' (highlighted with a red circle). A red dashed arrow points from the 'Q&A' icon to the text 'Type your question here.'. A 'Leave' button is in the bottom right corner.

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# Welcome



**Kathi Harper**  
AAUW  
California  
Director,  
Public Policy



**Amy Hom**  
Public Policy  
Committee



**Ginny Hatfield**  
Public Policy  
Committee



**Ashley Dargent**  
Public Policy  
Committee



**Kathy Van  
Osten**  
Legislative  
Advocate



# What We Will Cover

- The purpose and scope of Lobby Days
- How to conduct your meetings
- How to talk about our bills
- The logistics



# Purpose and Scope of Lobby Days

Great opportunity to:

- Acquaint yourself with your legislators.
- Acquaint your legislators with AAUW, AAUW California, and your branch.
- Advocate on behalf of AAUW California's top 3 priority bills for 2023-24.



# Kick-Off Zoom Meeting, March 21

**9:15 am to 9:45 am.**

- Introduction of AAUW California Advocate Kathy Van Osten (KVO) from MVM Strategy Group
- Question and answer session with KVO
- Address from Assemblymember Buffy Wicks



# The Meetings

- Meetings will last about 20 minutes.
- Team Leader makes introductions, presents overview of AAUW, AAUW California, and leader's branch if in district.
- Other team members give overview of their branch if in district.
- Members explain their assigned bill, and ask for a commitment of support.
- Team Leader thanks the legislator or staff, gets contact info for follow-up.



# Proposed Script For Lobby Day - Team Leader

Good [morning][afternoon]. On behalf of AAUW California, we want to thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to meet with you today. My name is [ ]. I am from the [ ] branch of AAUW, and these are my colleagues [introduce each or let them introduce themselves, with branch name].

I'd like to take a few minutes to tell you about AAUW, the American Association of University Women, but may I ask first if you are familiar with our organization? (Give them a chance to tell you what they might already know – don't waste time on info they already have, just fill in whatever is missing) – highlights:

- Nationwide organization started in 1881
- Headquartered in Wash D.C., affiliates in all 50 states, including CA
- We are known as AAUW California. We were organized in 1921 and incorporated in 1956. We currently have 119 branches and over 10,000 members.
- Our mission is to advance equity for women and girls through education, research and advocacy, but our values include ensuring equity for a diverse society





# Proposed Script For Lobby Day - Team Leader (cont'd)

**[If you are all from the same branch and your branch is in district]:** Our branch is in your/the member's district, and [if appropriate] we appreciate the support you/the member has shown for issues we care about. I'd like to tell you a little about the things our branch is doing for your/the member's community [highlights of current/recent events].

**[If none of your members are from the legislator's district]:** I will tell you, none of us are/our branch is from your/the member's district. We were asked to meet with you/your office because it is an important district and unfortunately none of our members from your district were available. If I may, I'd like to tell you just in general the kinds of activities branches are engaged in throughout California [some ideas: Tech Trek, scholarships, Gov Trek, community education, Get out the Vote]

Can I answer any questions for you about AAUW?

Every year, AAUW California sets a legislative agenda of about 30 bills that we are supporting. We have chosen our top 3 that we'd like to talk to you about today, and at this point I will turn it over to my colleagues, each of whom will address one of our bills.



# Proposed Script For Lobby Day - Team Member

I'd like to also thank you for giving us the opportunity to talk to you today. [If you are in district and the Team Leader is not from your district, you should introduce your branch and talk about some of the activities your branch has engaged in that support the district.]

**I'd like to talk to you today about [Bill No.]** [Refer to talking points.]

**Do you have any questions for me about [Bill No.]?** [If you can answer, do so. If you can't answer, say: I'm not sure about that, but I will definitely have someone from our state public policy team get back to you with an answer right away.]

**May I indicate that AAUW will have your support for [Bill No.]?** [If they say "no" don't argue, just ask them if they would mind sharing their concerns, then write them down.]

[Each member will repeat in turn.]



# Proposed Script For Lobby Day Team Leader - Closing

Thank you again so much for your time and attention.

**[If you are meeting with the legislator]:** Can you give me the name and contact for the person we should send follow-up responses and material to?

**[If you are meeting with a staffer]:** Can you spell your name and give me your contact info so we can send responses and material to you?



# Some Do's ... Before the Meeting

- Do some homework - know where the member stands on AAUW values.
- Make sure you understand the bills. Review the talking points and ask if you're not sure.
- Most of you will be on Zoom. Make sure your equipment is working and there are no distractions.



# During the Meeting

RELAX! They're just people!

- Let them know if you are a constituent.
- Let your pride in AAUW shine through.
- Stick to your allotted time.
- It's okay to read from the talking points.
- Give them time to ask questions and listen carefully to responses.
- It's okay to say "I don't know." Tell them you'll find out and that someone will circle back. **WRITE IT DOWN!**
- Ask if we can count on the member's support.



# Some Don'ts

- If you have been a campaign contributor DO NOT MENTION IT!
- Don't be late. Check in a few minutes ahead of time to ensure no computer glitches.
- If the legislator is about to speak or is speaking, do not interrupt.
- Don't ramble.
- Don't eat or drink. It's only 20 minutes!



# Some “Don’t Forgets”

- Designate someone to take a picture of the screen.
- Be flexible.
  - We may have last-minute changes beyond our control.
  - Your member or staffer may be late.
  - Your member or staffer may have to cut the meeting short.
  - There may be technical glitches.
  - Be courteous no matter what.
- Get contact info.
- Make note of questions/concerns/responses.



# Questions





# Talking Points for Assembly Bill 1394

## **California Social Media Platform Liability For Child Sexual Abuse and Trafficking**

**Author:** *Assembly Member Buffy Wicks*

### The Problem:

- 38% of tweens and 84% of teens use social media.
- 1/4 of 9-17 year olds report having had a sexually explicit interaction online with someone they believed to be an adult.
- Since 2000, traffickers have recruited 55% of sex trafficking victims online, usually through social media platforms.
- Social media platforms are aware that sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking of children are originating on their platforms; yet they continue to rely on inadequate self-policing which is facilitating the dramatic increase in online sexual exploitation.



# Talking Points for Assembly Bill 1394 (continued)

## The Proposed Solution - AB 1394:

- This bill will provide an incentive for social media platforms to better police their designs to reduce the ease with which predators can use them to attract potential teen victims.
- What does it do?
  - Allows victims of child sex exploitation to sue large social media platforms
    - If they can prove the platform knowingly, recklessly or negligently facilitated, aided or abetted child exploitation
    - And/or if the platform refuses their request to render invisible any images or videos posted of them on the platform
- How is it proven?
  - Does the platform design facilitate the use of code words for sexual predators to describe the type of child and the type of sexual activity?
- How is it enforced?
  - Victim may be awarded damages of \$1 million to \$5 million for each act of exploitation

Ask your Senator or Assembly Member to vote “aye” on AB 1394!



# Talking Points for Senate Bill 287

## **California Social Media Platform Liability For Child Addiction and Harms**

**Author:** *Senator Nancy Skinner*

### The Problem:

- Our youth are currently experiencing an unprecedented mental health crisis, and researchers attribute a significant part of the cause to their social media use.
- 38% of tweens and 84% of teens use social media.
- During the time that Instagram use rose from 1 million users to 1 billion, suicide among girls age 10-14 doubled.
- Among teens who reported suicidal thoughts, 6% of American users traced the desire to kill themselves to Instagram.
- Instagram knowingly worsened body image issues for 1 in 3 teenage girls.
- TikTok has pushed harmful content promoting eating disorders and self-harm to young users. Every 39 seconds, TikTok recommended such videos to teens.



# Talking Points for Senate Bill 287 (continued)

## The Proposed Solution - SB 287

- Would prohibit social media platforms from knowingly or negligently using a design, algorithm, or feature that causes child users to:
  - Receive content that facilitates the purchase of fentanyl
  - Inflict harm on themselves or others
  - Develop an eating disorder or engage in dangerous dieting
  - Purposely take their own lives
  - Experience addiction to the social media platform
- Provides a penalty of up to \$250,000 for each violation
- Social media platform is not in violation of the bill if it institutes and maintains a program of quarterly audits and corrects, within 30 days of audit completion, any design, algorithm, or feature discovered to present risk of violating the provision above.

(Note: SB 287 is a package bill with AB 1394)

Ask your Senator or Assembly Member to vote “aye” on SB 287!



# Talking Points for Assembly Bill 549

## ***The California Elimination of Discrimination Against Women Act***

**Author:** *Assemblymember Lori Wilson*

**Coauthors:** *Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan*  
*Assemblymember Lisa Calderon*

The Problem:

Women, including women in California, continue to face discrimination in the areas of health care, employment, economic development, educational opportunities, and gender-based violence.



# Talking Points for Assembly Bill 549 (continued)

The Proposed Solution - AB 549:

This bill was proposed by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which is an international “Bill of Rights” for women. The bill seeks to eliminate the discriminatory acts identified by CEDAW by:

- Requiring all state agencies to conduct an evaluation of all their departments to ensure the state does not discriminate against women, including examination of:
  - a. the implementation of policies and programs
  - b. allocation of funding
  - c. delivery of services
- Requiring agencies to report their findings to the California Commission on the Status of Women by January 2025 and January of every two years thereafter, with recommendations for necessary changes.

Ask your Senator or Assembly Member to vote “aye” on AB 549!



# Questions



# Logistics - Before the Meeting

- Team Leader does not need to contact the legislator offices. They have received the meeting details from KVO's office.
- For those meeting in person, be ready to begin on time.
- For those meeting on Zoom, all members should make sure they are familiar with Zoom and that equipment is in working order

**Questions about one of your legislators, or any of your meetings?**

Contact Kathy Van Osten 916-605-9293.





# Logistics - After the Meeting

- Team leaders will have documents for specific feedback for each meeting. Please be sure to note any questions or requests for specific information that we will need to follow up on, so that we can respond and get that information to the legislator.
- Please forward these documents no later than March 24, 2023 to: Amy Hom at [amyhom99@gmail.com](mailto:amyhom99@gmail.com)



# Questions



# Give Us Feedback

Please click **Continue** to participate in a short survey.

you will be leaving zoom.us to access the external URL below

[https:// docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScjggnUvivyOhGhkS2Rzohxubbs-ufS9ujasuT4Vn0qdCFHiwg/formResponse](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScjggnUvivyOhGhkS2Rzohxubbs-ufS9ujasuT4Vn0qdCFHiwg/formResponse)

Are you sure you want to continue?

