



AAUW California

How to be an Effective Lobby Days Advocate



March 25, 2024



Linking together for our mission.



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?'. Below this, there is a 'Collapse all (1)' link and a profile card for 'AAUW California' with a timestamp of 09:46 AM. 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 are two circular icons: 'Chat' and 'Q&A'. A red dashed arrow points from the text 'Chat has been disabled. Use the Q&A function' to the 'Q&A' icon. In the bottom right corner, there is a red 'Leave' button.

2





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Welcome



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What We Will Cover

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



First, a few stats...

- 154 people are registered for Lobby Days.
- 63 branches are participating.
- 40 people will come to Sacramento for in-person meetings.
- 114 people will participate in meetings via Zoom.
- We are working to schedule:
 - 29 Senate office meetings (4 in-person, 25 Zoom)
 - 49 Assembly office meetings (9 in-person, 40 Zoom)
- Most participants will meet with at least one of their representatives.



The Teams

- 10 Sacramento teams
- 36 Zoom teams
- Teams have been formed based on shared legislators.
- We have tried to keep branch members together where possible.
- In some instances where there is only one AAUW member in a district, the committee will assign out of district members to fill out the team.
- Teams usually consist of 3-5 members.
- A team leader has been designated for each team.



Team Leader Responsibilities

Each team has a designated Team Leader (TL). TL responsibilities:

- Be the point of contact for all communications with the Lobby Days committee.
- Contact your Team members and confirm that they are available on the scheduled dates and times.
- Decide what Team members are assigned to present the 3 bills.
- Meet with Team members before your meeting to make sure everyone knows their role. We strongly recommend that you do a “dry run” as a team.
- If the Zoom link you received has password “aauwca”, start the Zoom session.
- Take the lead in presenting the Team members and our bills to the Legislator or his/her staff.
- Send a “Thank you” email to the legislator or staff that you met with.
- Help us track the success of Lobby Days by completing a “Visit Evaluation” form.



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 2024



Kick-Off Zoom Meeting, April 2

8:55 am to 9:30 am

- Address from Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris at 9:00 am
- Question and answer session



The Meetings

- Meetings will last about 15-20 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 California
- We are known as AAUW California. We were organized in 1921 and incorporated in 1956. We currently have 116 branches and over 9,500 members.
- Our mission is to advance equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy, and 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 from your 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 also like to 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 avoid 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.
- Send a thank you email.



Questions



Talking Points for Assembly Bill 2843

Health Care Coverage for Rape and Sexual Assault Survivors

Author: *Assembly Member Cottie Petrie-Norris*
(AAUW California Sponsored)

The Problem:

- Access to medical care after a sexual assault is not only necessary for the health of the survivor, but also for gathering evidence that leads to perpetrators' convictions.
- Only 20% of rape survivors seek medical care following a rape, which leaves predators on the streets, and places many survivors in potentially dangerous situations if they fear retribution for seeking care and/or reporting a rape. Cost considerations contribute to this underreporting. Out of every 1,000 rapes, there are only 50 arrests; of which, there are 28 convictions; and only 25 rapists serve time.
- Prohibitive cost is one of the reasons many sexual assault survivors do not seek medical care following their assault.



Talking Points for Assembly Bill 2843 (continued)

The Problem (continued):

- Currently, rape kits and forensic exams are provided free of charge under the federal Violence Against Women Act.
- **However, ER visits are covered only for those who are on MediCal or Medicare (with sufficient coverage). Rape Survivors pay an average co-pay for ER visits of about 14% – or \$350 to \$500.**
- Other costs, including diagnostics, lab testing, emergency contraception, drug testing, medical treatment for physical trauma and follow up care **are subject to cost-sharing**, which can have a chilling effect on survivors who wish to seek care, but are unable to afford the cost-sharing requirements for that care.



Talking Points for Assembly Bill 2843 (continued)

The Problem (continued):

- The California Victims' Compensation Board (CalVCB) can be tapped into, but it only provides compensation after all available reimbursement and recovery sources are used, including medical insurance, disability insurance, employer benefits, and civil suits. The process takes time and requires the survivor to pay costs up front and potentially take on debt in a way that is detrimental as they await compensation. And not everyone is eligible for CalVCB.
- Another factor that prevents some rape survivors from seeking care is when their rapist is a domestic partner or spouse, and receiving a bill for co-pays can trigger further domestic violence for the survivor.



Talking Points for Assembly Bill 2843 (continued)

The Proposed Solution - AB 2843:

- While many factors may impact a person's decision to seek care and/or report a rape, costs for medical care should not be one of them.
- AB 2843 eliminates cost-sharing, including deductibles, from being imposed on any rape survivor seeking medical care following a rape. Insurers will be required to cover the cost of medical care with no copay.
- AB 2843 removes the issue of cost-sharing as a barrier to a rape survivor seeking care and forensic testing. While forensic exams and rape kits are free, other costs associated with an ER visit are not, for those with private insurance. AB 2843 ensures that those individuals who wish to report a rape and file charges will have the benefit of a rape kit test and forensic exam to provide evidence to secure more convictions for acts of sexual violence. **In addition, they can receive the care that they need following a traumatic sexual attack.**

Ask your Senator or Assembly Member to vote "aye" on AB 2843!



Talking Points for Assembly Bill AB 2326

Public Postsecondary Education: Sex Discrimination Policies

Author: *Assembly Member David Alvarez*
(AAUW California Sponsored)

The Problem:

- Title IX is intended to not only provide equity in sports and academic programming at our higher education institutions, but also to provide a process for complaints of discrimination, bullying, harassment, sexual harassment, and sexual assault.



Talking Points for Assembly Bill AB 2326 (continued)

The Problem (continued):

- The 2023 State Auditor's report [California State University: It Did Not Adequately or Consistently Address Some Allegations of Sexual Harassment \(2022-109\)](#) concluded that the California State University system's handling of Title IX-related complaints has not adequately or consistently addressed allegations of inequity, harassment, and sexual harassment, does not consistently identify and define sexual harassment amongst the institutions, and lacks a consistent method for addressing unprofessional conduct that does not rise to the level of sexual harassment.
- Prior State Auditor reports dating back to 2014 similarly report inadequate Title IX compliance from the University of California and California Community Colleges.



Talking Points for Assembly Bill 2326 (continued)

The Proposed Solution - AB 2326

- AB 2326 requires the Chancellors of the Community Colleges, the State Universities and the President of the University of California to provide an annual report to their respective Board of Governors or Board of Regents on the state of the college or university system in ensuring district programs and activities are free from discrimination and therefore in compliance with Title IX.
- The report should include an overview of the Chancellor's Offices' efforts in monitoring and ensuring the compliance of each district with providing programs and activities free from discrimination, including, but not limited to sexual harassment.
- **This annual report will be publicly, orally presented to the Senate and Assembly Budget Subcommittees on Education Finance by the Chancellors and followed up with Q&A.**

Ask your Senator or Assembly Member to vote "aye" on AB 2326!



Talking Points for Assembly Bill AB 2099

Protecting Reproductive Health Clinics

Author: *Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan*

The Problem:

- There has been a significant increase in extreme anti-choice attacks against abortion clinics since the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*.
- Between 2021 and 2022 there was a 100% increase in arson at clinics, with one instance taking place in Burbank, California.
- During the same time period, death threats and threats of harm against care providers increased by 20%.



Talking Points for Assembly Bill AB 2099 (continued)

The Problem (continued):

- Protesters have started using the internet to target providers, patients, and volunteers, posting photos, names, and locations. The threats and online harassment are not only intimidating but also pose serious personal risks.
- While these offenses can be criminal, it can be difficult for law enforcement to take action against offenders.
- California is one of the few places where people can receive safe and legal abortions in the United States. With the risk of criminal prosecution that many women face in other states, protecting patients' privacy and health care access in California has become ever more crucial.



Talking Points for Assembly Bill 2099 (continued)

The Proposed Solution - AB 2099

- Under current California law, it is a misdemeanor to post information about reproductive health care patients or providers with the intent of using that information to commit a crime involving violence or threat of violence against them. **AB 2099 makes it possible for the D.A. to file a violation of these provisions as a felony if the posting and subsequent action by another person results in bodily injury.**
- AB2099 provides more serious recourse against individuals who personally, or otherwise foment violence or the threat of violence, or work to inhibit or prevent an individual's Constitutional rights, including their access to reproductive health care. **Prosecutors will have latitude to pursue felony charges as they deem fit based upon the severity of the actions taken and the circumstances.**



Talking Points for Assembly Bill 2099 (continued)

The Proposed Solution - AB 2099 (continued)

- AB 2099 further increases legal protections for reproductive health care providers and patients commensurate with the risk they face. It preempts escalations in extremist violence, and protects the rights of individuals seeking and providing necessary healthcare.

Ask your Senator or Assembly Member to vote "aye" on AB 2099!



Questions



Logistics - Before the Meeting

- Team Leader does not need to contact the legislator offices. They have received the meeting details from us.
- 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, please complete the online visit evaluation form [Lobby Days Visit Report](#) for each meeting, no later than April 6, 2024. 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.
- Team Leaders, please send a thank you email to the member/staffer that you met with.



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?

