



APRIL 2024 | ISSUE 8

# Public Policy News

A monthly dispatch from the AAUW California Public Policy Team

## AAUW-CA ANNUAL EVENT

April 27 @ 9am PT

Join us via zoom for the AAUW California Annual Event from 9am-noon on Saturday, April 27th! Entitled "Back to School with AAUW California," we invite you to join the state leadership team for updates on our accomplishments and ongoing activities via a campus tour, classroom visits, rah-rah assemblies, and awards to star pupils. You are also invited to "stay after school" for extracurricular activities in breakout rooms, including a truly magnificent School Board Project session that will educate you while keeping you entertained. Hope to see you there! Click [HERE](#) to register.

## ACTION ALERTS!

Sign Up for Action Alerts for 2024

Get excited! We have a shiny new 2024 legislative agenda (see next page and/or click on the bill tracker below for more), Now that this agenda is set, we are reminding you to sign up for CA legislative action alerts [HERE](#). Action alerts will push out more information about the bills on our agenda, asking you to act to educate yourself and others, as well as making specific asks for you to reach out to legislators when the time is right. In the fall, you will also receive information about get out the vote. More to come soon!

## 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](mailto: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 4/10 @ 2pm PT

Note: April's meeting will be on the second Wednesday of the month, as Lobby Days is scheduled for the first week of April.

Click [HERE](#) for meeting information.

## SAVE THE DATES!

Wednesday 6/05 @ 2pm PT

June Branch Public Policy Chairs' Meeting

*click here!*

[2024 Bill Tracker](#)

ARTICLE FOR YOUR MARCH BRANCH NEWSLETTERS

## AAUW California Public Policy Committee Sets 2024 Legislative Agenda

By Amy Hom and Missy Maceyko, Co-chairs AAUW California Public Policy Committee

The Public Policy Committee met virtually over a weekend in early March to set AAUW California's 2024 Legislative Agenda. Through a day and a half of discussions, we reviewed 67 bills, considering their merits and potential costs as well as their alignment with our public policy priorities. Then, we went through a voting/ranking process to select the top bills that we will advance as our Legislative Agenda. Our legislative agenda consists of three "A" priority bills, four "B" priority bills, twenty-nine "C" priority bills, and twelve spot bills that we are watching. Seven of the bills on our legislative agenda are 2-year bills that carried over from last year. All of the bills on our agenda fall under at least one of our four Public Policy Priority pillars; one bill - AB 2349 - falls under three pillars.

Excitingly, our signature "A" priority bill AB 2843 "Health Care Coverage for Rape and Sexual Assault Survivors" was authored by AAUW California. The bill is sponsored by AAUW California and falls under two of our Public Policy Priorities, "Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society" and "Economic Security for All Women". The bill 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 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 they need following a traumatic sexual attack. (See the [Lobby Days Talking Points](#) and [Bill Text](#) for more details.)

Our second "A" priority bill, AB 2326 "Title IX Oversight and Compliance Act" is also sponsored by AAUW California. This bill falls under our Public Policy Priorities pillar "Equal Access to Quality Education for All Students" and champions something that AAUW California has long supported: Title IX enforcement. AB 2326 requires the Chancellors of the Community Colleges and State Universities and the President of the University of California to provide an annual report of their compliance with Title IX, with the report to be presented publicly and orally to the Senate and Assembly Budget Subcommittees on Higher Education Finance, a move to hold the systems, and their leaders, more publicly accountable.

While we are listing AB 2326 as an "A" priority bill, a large number of Title IX related bills were introduced this year, likely prompted by the 2023 State Auditor's report [Report 2022-109 \(ca.gov\)](#) which concluded that the CSU system's handling of Title IX-related complaints has not adequately addressed allegations of inequity, harassment, and sexual harassment. While a great deal of the introduced Title IX legislation has not yet fully taken shape, we are watching them, as they will potentially become priority bills. In addition, one of the more fully-formed bills, AB 1790, is listed as a "B" priority bill on our agenda.

Our third "A" priority bill is AB 2099, "Protecting Reproductive Health Clinics". This bill falls under our Public Policy Priorities pillar "Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society". The bill makes it possible for the D.A. to file a felony charge for sharing personal information or images of individuals such as reproductive health care providers or patients, with the intent of causing harm or violence against them, if the posting and subsequent action results in bodily injury. With [violence against abortion providers continuing to rise following the reversal of Roe](#), the protection of providers and patients is now more important than ever.

To see our full 2024 Legislative Agenda, please go to our [Bill Tracking Report](#). This report will continue to be updated as the bills move through the legislative process, so you will always be able to see the latest status.

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