

April 4, 2024

Act – *Take action on the most pressing policies*

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. AAUW is focused on policies that combat the pervasive conditions allowing assault and harassment to continue. This month, Congress is expected to reintroduce a key piece of legislation addressing many facets of harassment in the workplace. The Department of Education is also expected to announce updated Title IX rules that would strengthen protections in educational institutions.

The Bringing an End to Harassment by Enhancing Accountability and Rejecting Discrimination (BE HEARD) in the Workplace Act would build on existing civil rights laws to provide new protections against harassment for workers and safeguard existing discrimination laws.

What you can do today: [Reach out to your members of Congress today](#) — it is critical for Congress to hear from you now to build support for the BE HEARD Act when it is introduced.

When workers face harassment, it impacts their success in the workplace, and ultimately, their economic security. This is particularly true for women and people of color, who are disproportionately impacted by harassment. By passing the BE HEARD Act, Congress can let survivors know “we hear you, we support you, and we will stand by you.”

Take action for all working people and urge your members of Congress to cosponsor the BE HEARD Act now!

Want to do more? Tell your members of Congress that you also [support a robust Title IX rule that protects ALL students](#).

Learn – *Dig deeper into the issues that matter*

Reproductive rights and access to abortion care are fundamental pillars in promoting women's education and economic security. When women have control over their reproductive choices, they can better plan their futures, including their educational and career paths.

This spring, the U.S. Supreme Court is hearing two cases that could have an impact on access to abortion care:

- [*Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\) v. Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine*](#): A case brought by a group of anti-abortion doctors and individuals that questions the FDA's approval of a medication called mifepristone. Mifepristone is a part of a two-drug regimen for medication abortion approved in 2000. Medication abortion accounts for 60 percent of abortions in the United States today. **Oral argument took place March 26, 2024.**
- [*Moyle v. United States*](#): A case brought by anti-abortion legislators seeking to overturn a federal court decision barring Idaho from enforcing its Defense of Life Act (which criminalizes the act of performing an abortion) in situations where the ban would violate the federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA). EMTALA requires hospitals receiving Medicare funding to offer “necessary stabilizing treatment” to pregnant people in emergencies, which the federal court found to include abortion in emergency cases. **Oral argument is set for April 24, 2024.**

The Supreme Court is expected to hand down decisions on both cases at the end of the term in June. [Early indications](#) from the *FDA v. Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine* oral argument signal that the justices will likely allow the use of mifepristone to continue.

Engage – *Share the important work we’re doing*

- April 3 marked [Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander \(AANHPI\) Women’s Equal Pay Day](#). AANHPI women, including part-time and seasonal workers, are paid on average only 80 cents for every dollar paid to non-Hispanic white men—and when you look past the average, many AANHPI women face much wider pay gaps.
- As part of the AAUW and AAUW Action Fund *It’s My Vote!* 2024 voter engagement campaign, join us for a deep dive on policy issues at stake in this year’s national elections, including pay equity, equity in education, reproductive rights and the ERA. Learn how AAUW members can engage in local voter education efforts. [Register now!](#)
- AAUW [joined](#) coalition partners in opposing the Protection of Women in Olympic and Amateur Sports Act (H.R. 7187). The bill does not address equity issues that women and girls face in sports. Instead, it would harmfully target and exclude transgender women and girls from participating in any recreational or Olympic sports governed by the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committees, including youth and grassroots programs.
- Sign up as a [Two-Minute Activist](#) today and keep up to date on our policy work with our [letters, comments, testimony and legal briefs](#) to learn more about AAUW’s positions and advocacy efforts.