



## 2014 Election AAUW Public Policy Positions

**Using tax dollars to fund public education:** To support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity, AAUW advocates for (1) Adequate and equitable funding for quality public education for all students, and (2) Opposes the use of public funds for nonpublic elementary and secondary education and to charter schools that do not adhere to the same civil rights and accountability standards as required of other public schools.

**Ensuring women's access to contraception without co-pay or cost-sharing, no matter where they work or go to school:** To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society, AAUW advocates for (1) Choice in the determination of one's reproductive life, and (2) Increased access to quality, affordable health care and family planning services, including expansion of patients' rights.

**Increasing resources to promote prevention efforts and stronger enforcement of federal law prohibiting campus sexual violence:** To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society, AAUW advocates for (1) Freedom from violence and fear of violence, including hate crimes, in homes, schools, workplaces, and communities, and (2) Equitable climates free of harassment and bullying, academic freedom, civic education, protection from censorship, and bias-free education.

**Improving the Social Security program to protect recipient benefits:** To achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women, AAUW advocates for (1) support a Social Security system that provides inflation-protected, guaranteed lifetime benefits with a progressive benefit formula, spousal and widow benefits, and disability and survivor benefits, and (2) Strengthening retirement benefits and programs, including pension improvements and protecting Social Security from privatization.

**Requiring employers to provide earned, paid sick days to all employees:** To achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women, AAUW advocates for (1) an economy that provides equitable employment opportunities, a livable wage, quality affordable dependent care, paid family and medical leave, and (2) Greater availability of and access to a high standard of benefits and policies that promote work-life balance.

**Improving existing civil rights laws aimed at closing the wage gap between men and women:** To achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women, AAUW advocates for (1) Pay equity and fairness in compensation (2) Equitable access and advancement in employment, including vigorous enforcement of employment anti-discrimination statutes (3) Programs that provide women with education, training, and support for success in the workforce, including nontraditional occupations and women's entrepreneurship (4) Strengthening programs, including welfare and career and technical education, to improve postsecondary education access, career development, and earning potential (5) Strengthening

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**Increasing the current minimum wage:** AAUW promotes the economic, social, and physical well-being of all persons. Essential to that well-being are (1) an economy that provides equitable employment opportunities, reduction of poverty, a livable wage, quality affordable dependent care, paid family and medical leave, decent and affordable housing, quality affordable and accessible health care, and a clean and healthful environment and (2) Pay equity and fairness in compensation.

**Upholding same-sex marriage laws:** To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society, AAUW advocates for (1) Vigorous enforcement of and full access to civil and constitutional rights (2) Freedom in the definition of family and a guarantee of civil rights in all family structures, and (3) Freedom from violence and fear of violence, including hate crimes, in homes, schools, workplaces, and communities.

**Adopting college-readiness standards for K-12 education in English and mathematics and providing the necessary support and funding for implementation of the standards:** To support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity, AAUW advocates for (1) Adequate and equitable funding for quality public education for all students (2) Protection of programs that meet the needs of girls and women in elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education, including strong promotion of STEM education and comprehensive sex education and vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education, and (3) Increased support for programs that break through barriers for women and girls in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields.

**Increasing state funding for higher education:** To support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity, AAUW advocates for (1) Increased support for and access to affordable higher education for women and disadvantaged populations (2) Strengthening programs, including welfare and career and technical education, to improve postsecondary education access, career development, and earning potential, and (3) Protection of programs that meet the needs of girls and women in elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education, including strong promotion of STEM education and comprehensive sex education and vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education.

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) empowers women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. Our nonpartisan, nonprofit organization has more than 170,000 members and supporters across the United States – as well as 1,000 local branches and more than 800 college and university partners. Learn more and join us at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org). You can also follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/AAUW.NYS](https://www.facebook.com/AAUW.NYS)).