

## 2015 - 2017 AAUW NYS Public Policy Action Priorities

Biennial priorities for action are chosen according to the criteria of viability, critical need, strong member support, and potential for distinctive AAUW contribution. These AAUW NYS Public Policy Action Priorities do not preclude members or branches from acting on any other issues that do not conflict in any way with federal or state AAUW public policy priorities and principles.

1. To support a strong system of public education in New York State that promotes gender fairness, equity and diversity, AAUW New York State advocates:
  - ♦ Adequate and equitable funding for quality public education for all students, including early childhood education
  - ♦ Support for strong state education standards that ensure academic rigor
  - ♦ Vigorous enforcement of Title IX
  - ♦ Protection of programs that meet the needs of girls in elementary and secondary education; encouraging access to non-traditional fields like STEM
  - ♦ Opposition to the use of public funds for non-public elementary and secondary education, charter schools, and the establishment of parent trigger laws to convert public schools to charters
  
2. To achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women, AAUW New York State advocates:
  - ♦ Fairness in compensation, including pay equity and other pension benefits for women, and opposition to efforts to weaken Social Security, Medicare and other social safety net programs women rely on
  - ♦ Equitable access and advancement in employment
  - ♦ Vigorous enforcement of employment anti-discrimination statutes
  - ♦ Programs that provide women with education, training, and support for success in the workforce and improve women's earning potential, including women's entrepreneurship.
  - ♦ Greater availability of and access to quality, affordable child and dependent care, including elder care
  - ♦ Strengthening paid sick and paid family leave laws
  
3. To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society, AAUW New York State advocates:
  - ♦ Access to affordable, quality, comprehensive health care; including choice in reproductive health care for all women
  - ♦ Freedom from violence and fear of violence in homes, schools, workplaces, and communities
  - ♦ Violence prevention programs that include addressing bullying and harassment behaviors that lead to violence in schools, colleges and work places
  - ♦ Strengthening programs and laws that address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking in schools and on college campuses
  - ♦ Vigorous enforcement of existing Domestic Violence statutes and expansion of laws to protect victims
  - ♦ Enforce and strengthen existing human trafficking prevention statutes, increase criminal penalties, and support survivors of trafficking
  - ♦ Ensure a safe, healthy and sustainable environment that protects women and their families
  
4. To protect access to the ballot of all voters, AAUW New York State advocates
  - ♦ Ensuring and expanding access to the ballot for all voters, including the establishment of early voting
  - ♦ Opposition to restricting access through onerous voter identification procedures
  - ♦ Fair and non-partisan redistricting
  
5. Ratification of CEDAW – the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women - by the U.S. Senate (passed by the United Nations in 1979).