

HOUSE LEGISLATIVE ACTION INVOLVING AAUW ISSUES

How Representatives Voted Was Used to Compile the 2007 House Voting Record Education

The College Cost Reduction and Access Act (H.R. 2669) of 2007 Conference Report

The House passed (292-97) the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 (H.R. 2669) Conference Report

The legislation reformed the student aid system and provided debt relief to make college more affordable for students and their families. It was signed into law. It cut interest rates on subsidized federal loans in half, contained college costs, and made student loan payments more manageable for borrowers. The bill also increased the maximum Pell grant scholarship by more than \$1,000 and provided loan forgiveness to certain graduates who choose public-service careers. A vote for the conference report is designated by a +.

America COMPETES Act (H.R. 2272) The House passed (367-57) the America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science (COMPETES) Act (H.R. 2272). The legislation improved opportunities for women in science, technology, engineering, and math fields. It was signed into law. The new law will produce more STEM teachers by providing scholarships to students who plan to go into these fields. In addition, the law expands programs to strengthen teachers' math and science teaching skills and establishes a program to provide mentors for women interested in careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. A vote for the bill is designated by a +.

Economic Security

The Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 (H.R. 2) The legislation raises the federal minimum wage from \$5.15 per hour to \$7.25 per hour over two years. The minimum wage is a working woman's issue; 1.4 million working mothers are receiving a direct pay raise, and an estimated 623,000 single moms are benefiting from the new minimum wage. Although this stand-alone legislation passed the House (315-116) the minimum wage increase was signed into law as part U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act of 2007 (H.R. 2206). A vote for the bill is designated by a +.

The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2007 (H.R. 2831). The House passed (225-199) the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2007 (H.R. 2831) The legislation codifies the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and court interpretations of pay discrimination law that had been in place for almost 40 years before the Supreme Court's decision in *Ledbetter v. Goodyear*. Under this new rule, most employees have to file a pay discrimination claim within 180 days of their last discriminatory paycheck The House bill would amend Title VII to clarify that a pay discrimination claim accrues when a pay decision is made, when an employee is subject to that decision, or at any time an employee is injured by it. A vote for the bill is designated by a +.

Civil Rights

Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007

This legislation (H.R. 1592) passed (237-180). It would provide local police departments and states with federal resources to address hate violence; allow the federal government to investigate and prosecute hate crime cases; provide funding to communities to combat bias-motivated crime; assist in local investigations and prosecutions of hate crimes; add actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability to the list of categories already protected under federal hate crimes law. Current federal law only applies if the crime is committed while the victim is engaged in specific federally protected activities. AAUW believes this law must not be limited to victims engaged in federally protected activities. A vote for the bill is designated by a +.

Pence Amendment (H. Amdt. 594 to H.R. 3043)

The House considered the Pence Amendment to the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act of 2008 (H.R. 3043). This amendment would have prohibited Planned Parenthood from receiving funds for family planning projects under Title X of the Public Health Services Act. Ultimately, this prohibition would have prevented many uninsured and underinsured women from accessing even the most basic women's health care services—often the only medical care such women receive. This amendment was defeated (189-231), and funding for the important health services Planned Parenthood provides remains intact. A vote against the amendment is designated by a +.