



For Immediate Release
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**The American Association of University Women of New York State (AAUW-NYS)
Gives Governor Cuomo ‘A-’ for Renewed Commitment to Issues Important to NY Women**

[AAUW-NYS](#) members across the state listened intently to Governor Cuomo’s 2014 State of the State Address on January 8, hoping the governor would add access to affordable child care and paid family sick leave to his 2014 agenda and make good on his 2013 promises to upgrade New York’s laws for women and their families, end workplace discrimination, ensure equal pay for equal work, and provide the appropriate funding and support for New York public schools.

While the governor did not specifically mention several [policy priorities](#) important to AAUW-NYS members, including affordable child care, paid family sick leave, equal pay, reproductive health care, and ending human trafficking and sexual violence, he did strongly renew his commitment to the passage of the [Women’s Equality Act \(WEA\)](#), which addresses these important issues. For this, the governor gets an ‘A-’ from AAUW-NYS!

Governor Cuomo acknowledged in his State of the State that discrimination against women still exists and must stop. AAUW-NYS wholeheartedly agrees, which is why we stand firmly with the other 860 organizations in the New York State Women’s Equality Coalition urging legislators to finish what they started in 2013 and pass the comprehensive Women’s Equality Act (WEA). The 10-point Women’s Equality Act will help secure equal pay for women, provide access to reproductive health care, and ensure freedom from discrimination and violence. The WEA passed the Assembly in 2013 but stalled in the Senate.

“There is a great deal at stake for New York State women and their families, and we refuse to sit idly by while the New York state legislature plays politics with our lives,” said AAUW of New York State Public Policy Vice President Donna Seymour. “The governor has reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening laws for New York women, and AAUW-NYS will be holding him – and the state legislature – accountable for their actions in 2014. The ultimate opinion poll takes place in the voting booth next November for all 213 members of New York’s government.”

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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 800 college and university partners. Since AAUW’s founding in 1881, our members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day — educational, social, economic, and political. Learn more and join us at www.aauw.org.

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