

# AAUW – PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES 2008-2010

The public policy program underscores the American Association of University Women’s mission of promoting equity and education for all women and girls. In Pennsylvania, AAUW actively endorses the Association Public Policy Program. In addition, we support the value of celebrating community efforts that recognize our interdependence and individuality and that encourage community dialogue on critical issues. Biennial priorities in Pennsylvania are intended to complement Association priorities and to be a focus for the active efforts of individuals and branches.

**To support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity, AAUW advocates**

- ? Adequate and equitable funding for quality public education for all students and services that educate women and girls for self-sufficiency employability
- ? Opposition to the use of public funds for nonpublic elementary and secondary education
- ? Vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education
- ? Protection of programs that meet the needs of girls in elementary and secondary education
- ? Increased support for, and access to, higher education for women and other disadvantaged populations
- ? *Identifying and countering violence and extremist ideologies that restrict academic or individual freedom*
- ? *Encouraging a commitment to the inclusion of the arts and humanities in public education*

**To achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women, AAUW advocates**

- ? Pay equity and fairness in compensation
- ? Equitable access and advancement in employment
- ? Vigorous enforcement of employment antidiscrimination statutes
- ? Greater availability of and access to benefits and policies that create a family-friendly workplace environment
- ? Programs that provide women with education, training, and support for success in the workforce, including nontraditional occupations
- ? Strengthening programs, including welfare and vocational education, to improve postsecondary education access, career development, and earning potential
- ? Protection of the social insurance nature of Social Security
- ? *Adequately funding programs that address the needs of all women, with an emphasis on financial security and quality health care*
- ? *Adequately funding and/or providing tax incentives for quality child care facilities available to all parents regardless of income, education, race, religion, ethnic background, or marital status*

**To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society, AAUW advocates**

- ? Vigorous protection of and full access to civil and constitutional rights
- ? Choice in the determination of one’s reproductive life
- ? Freedom from violence and fear of violence in homes, schools, workplaces, and communities
- ? Increased access to health care and family planning services, and expansion of patients’ rights
- ? Support for U.N. programs that address human rights and women’s and girls’ concerns
- ? *Promoting equitable treatment in the judicial system in regard to gender, race, creed, sexual orientation, age, national origin, disability, and economic status.*
- ? *Promoting and encouraging women to seek appointed and elected public office\**
- ? *Members and branches are reminded that AAUW is a non-partisan organization and cannot advocate for the selection or defeat of candidates in partisan elections. Supporting women for public office must be done in a general, non-partisan fashion. Individual AAUW members acting as private citizens may support or endorse candidates but may not do so on behalf of AAUW or in a way that gives the appearance of AAUW endorsement of a candidate. Members can and must speak out on the issues we support. AAUW’s Voter Education Campaign is focused on providing women with factual, straightforward information on how issues considered by elected officials affect their lives and families.*