

AAUW California  
Biennial Public Policy Action Priorities  
2007-2009

Legislative activism has a long history in AAUW. Members first lobbied for women's suffrage in 1892 and have continued to be responsive to critical issues of the times.

The AAUW Public Policy program supports its mission to advance equity for women and girls, through advocacy, education and research and complements the Association Public Policy program. AAUW California's priorities for action are chosen according to the criteria of viability, critical need, and strong member support.

Equity:

Recognizing that equity for all women and girls requires an application of legal definition, AAUW California supports:

- Constitutional protection for the civil rights of all individuals
- Legislation that addresses current inequities in compensation and benefits for all working women
- Vigorous enforcement of California Title V and Federal Title IX regulations on gender equity

Education:

Believing that public education and lifelong learning are the foundations of a democratic society, AAUW California supports:

- Equitable funding for quality public education in preschool through secondary schools that supports all students of any culture, race, ethnicity, special needs or sexual orientation
- Opposition to the use of public funds for school vouchers
- Continuing educational research and reform that improves student achievement
- Programs that provide women with education, training, and support for long-term success in the work force and the community
- Medically accurate health curriculum, including comprehensive sex education

Societal Change:

Promoting the social, economic, and physical well-being of all individuals, AAUW California supports:

- Right to determine one's reproductive life, including the right to privacy and access to quality family planning services
- Access to health care and the expansion of patient rights
- Greater availability and access to high quality, affordable family care giving services, including rigorous oversight
- Respect for diversity and the rejection of all forms of discrimination
- Access to decent, affordable housing
- Promotion of safe, healthy work environments free from sexual harassment and intimidation
- Freedom from violence and fear in homes, schools, workplaces, and communities

Public Policy Priorities were adopted at the AAUW California Convention in Ontario in April 2007.