AAUW - PENNSYLVANIA
PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES
APPROVED for 2004-2006

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 affirm the individual rights and the promotion of social justice of all persons, to promote a strong system of quality public education, and to achieve women's economic self-sufficiency, AAUW-Pennsylvania advocates:

< Promoting equitable treatment in the judicial system in regard to gender, race, creed, sexual orientation, age, national origin, disability, and economic status.
< Developing and implementing programs and services that meet the health needs of women and girls, promote family planning, and allow choice in determination of one's reproductive life.
< Supporting United Nations (UN) programs that address human rights and women's and girls' issues and urging the United States' ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Woman (CEDAW), which address these issues, particularly the sexual exploitation of youth.
< Identifying and countering violence and extremist ideologies that restrict academic or individual freedom.
< Supporting initiatives for education reform that encourage gender fairness and diversity, including enforcing Title IX.
< Encouraging a commitment to the inclusion of the arts and humanities in public education.
< Adequately funding programs and services that educate women and girls for employability.
< Opposing the use of tuition vouchers or any other public funds for non-public elementary or secondary education, excluding the present mandated school code.
< 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.
< 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. This means that supporting women for public office must be done in a general and non-partisan fashion. Individual AAUW members acting as private citizens may support or endorse candidates for public office but may not do so on behalf of AAUW or in a way that gives the appearance of AAUW endorsement of the 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.

Help Stop Discrimination in Job Interviews
Currently it is legal in PA for interviewers to ask job prospects questions about family status, such as “How many children do you have?” or “Are you planning on having children?” Too often employers choose to discriminate against parents or prospective parents because of beliefs that they will be absent more and less reliable, regardless of facts. Two bills, House Bill #65 and Senate Bill #131, have been introduced into the PA legislature to address this problem. You can read the details of these (or any other) bills by going to http://www.legis.state.pa.us/ and entering the bill #. Please lobby your PA rep & senator (if you don’t know who they are, you can also find that out at http://www.legis.state.pa.us/) to support these bills.