

## Additional Policy Resources

Up to 10 copies of this brochure are available free from the AAUW Helpline at [helpline@aauw.org](mailto:helpline@aauw.org) or 800/326-AAUW (2289). For additional copies, contact ShopAAUW at 800/225-9998 or [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org).

The AAUW Action Network helps anyone with an interest and an e-mail address to take action to affect the outcome of important policy issues. Action Network links directly to AAUW's Two-Minute Activist, where you can read a brief summary of a current issue and then click to send a letter to Congress. To subscribe, visit [www.aauw.org/issue\\_advocacy](http://www.aauw.org/issue_advocacy). If you prefer, write to the addresses or call the phone numbers below.

*Washington Update* is AAUW's free, members-only weekly e-bulletin. It offers an insider's view on the legislative process, the latest policy news, resources for advocates, programming ideas, and updates from the Public Policy and Government Relations Department. AAUW members are encouraged to subscribe by e-mailing [VoterEd@aauw.org](mailto:VoterEd@aauw.org).

## Important Contact Information

### The President of the United States

The White House  
Washington, DC 20500     [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

### The Honorable [name]

U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510     [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)

### The Honorable [name]

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515     [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)

White House Comments: 202/456-1111  
U.S. Capitol Switchboard: 202/224-3121

### To learn more about AAUW and how to join, contact

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2007-2009

# PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM

*Adopted July 2007  
AAUW Convention  
Phoenix, Arizona*

*AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research. In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.*

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN  
because **equity** is still an **issue**™

The public policy program underscores AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research, and speaks to women's needs, aspirations, and concerns across the life span. The work of AAUW builds upon over a century of responsible public participation at the local, state, national, and international levels. AAUW is committed to working in partnership with diverse allies.

The following principles provide a basis for AAUW members' actions at the local, state, federal, and international levels. Implicit in each is support for government agencies administering programs, including adequate appropriations, effective and accountable administration, and provision for citizen participation. We work to increase the number of underrepresented populations, including women, in policy- and other decision-making positions.

### Public Policy Principles for Action

Basic to all of AAUW's public policy efforts is the understanding that true equity requires a balance between the rights of the individual and the needs of the community. We firmly believe in the separation of church and state.

AAUW supports constitutional protection for the civil rights of all individuals, including the right to privacy. We believe in choice in the determination of one's reproductive life.

We support a fair, balanced, and independent judiciary. We oppose all forms of discrimination. We support affirmative action to improve racial, ethnic, and gender diversity. We affirm our commitment to passage and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

AAUW believes that quality public education is the foundation of a democratic society. We advocate equity, academic freedom, protection from censorship, bias-free education, and responsible funding for all levels of education. We advocate increased access to higher education, especially for women in poverty.

AAUW promotes the economic, social, and physical well-being of all persons. Essential to that well-being are an economy that provides equitable employment opportunities, a livable wage, reduction of poverty, quality affordable dependent care, paid family and medical leave, decent and affordable housing, and quality affordable health care; freedom from violence; and a clean and healthful environment. We support a Social Security system that provides inflation-protected, guaranteed lifetime benefits with a progressive benefit formula, spousal and widow benefits, and disability and survivor benefits. We support public budgets that balance individual rights and responsibility to community. We support meaningful campaign finance reform that will promote equitable participation and representation.

AAUW values and is committed to the arts and humanities, which develop and enhance our pluralistic cultural heritage.

AAUW believes that global interdependence requires national and international policies that promote peace, justice, human rights, sustainable development, and mutual security for all people. We advocate public discussion to ensure enlightened decisions on these

issues. We support a strengthened United Nations and its affiliated agencies. We advocate implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action from the 4th World Conference on Women and subsequent declarations. We affirm our commitment to the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). We support international family planning programs that are consistent with AAUW policy.



### Biennial Action Priorities

Biennial priorities for federal action are chosen according to the criteria of viability, critical need, strong member support, and potential for distinctive AAUW contribution or leadership.

#### 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
- 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

#### 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

#### 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