

## **PUBLIC POLICY LEADERSHIP/PROGRAMMING MODULE**

### Introduction to Public Policy

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### **File 1 HOW THE AAUW PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM IS DEVELOPED**

#### ***Purpose of the Public Policy Program***

AAUW's Public Policy Program establishes the federal action priorities on which AAUW members across the country will focus their advocacy efforts and guides the work of the national staff.

#### ***Member Input***

The strength of the two-year AAUW Public Policy Program is that it originates and ends with the membership. The adoption of the Association's two-year Public Policy Program at each national convention is the culmination of a process involving AAUW members nationwide. Member survey: Individual members complete the survey published in *AAUW Outlook* and published on AAUW's website.

Ongoing feedback mechanisms: Leaders and staff receive feedback on AAUW issues through branch and state reports, Leader-on-Loan consultations, committee calls with state leaders, member response, and AAUW HELPLINE calls.

#### ***Development of the Public Policy Program***

In the fall of even-numbered years, the Association Public Policy Committee meets to develop a proposed two-year Public Policy Program using the results of the member survey, ongoing feedback, and advice from staff on likely legislative action before the Congress in the next biennium. Criteria used for developing the program priorities include viability, critical need, strong member support, and potential for distinctive AAUW contribution.

Once developed, the proposed program priorities are presented to the AAUW Board of Directors for approval. Upon approval, the proposed program is then sent to state public policy chairs and sent to every member through *AAUW Outlook* or *AAUW in Action*. States and branches are encouraged to discuss the program with their members prior to convention.

#### ***At the Convention***

The Association Public Policy Committee conducts convention briefing sessions on the proposed program prior to the business session in which it is considered and voted on by delegates. The briefings allow delegates the opportunity to receive background information, have questions answered, discuss any concerns or proposed changes, and work with the committee to draft any proposed amendments. By the time consideration and adoption of the Public Policy Program come to the convention floor, delegates have had time to participate in briefings, discuss the program informally, and understand its importance to AAUW's work in the public policy arena.

## **File 2 Public Policy Statements for Association and State**

### **2003-05 ASSOCIATION PUBLIC POLICY PRINCIPLES FOR ACTION**

**(Adopted June 2003)**

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 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 oppose all forms of discrimination. We support affirmative action as a remedy for past discrimination. 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, reduction of poverty, quality dependent care, paid family and medical leave, decent housing, and quality affordable health care; freedom from violence; and a clean and healthful environment. 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 Platform for Action from the 4th World Conference on Women. We affirm our commitment to the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

## **2003-05 BIENNIAL ACTION PRIORITIES (Adopted June 2003)**

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

### **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:**

- Fairness in compensation
- Equitable access and advancement in employment
- Vigorous enforcement of employment anti-discrimination statutes
- Greater availability of and access to quality, affordable dependent care
- Programs that provide women with education, training, and support for success in the work force
- Strengthening programs, including welfare, to improve postsecondary education access, career development, and earning potential
- Social Security and Medicare reform that guarantees improved retirement security for women and all low-wage workers

### **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
- Expansion of health rights for women, families, and children
- Support for U.N. programs that address human rights and women's and girls' concerns

## **AAUW of MICHIGAN PUBLIC POLICY Principles 2003-05**

*Implicit in the advocacy of public policy is support for equitable, flexible and fiscally responsible use of public funds.*

To preserve a strong system of public education, AAUW advocates:

- Statewide collection of monies distributed on an equitable basis with options for local millage.
- Organization of school districts to facilitate accountability.
- Increased and continued funding for public institutions of higher education.

To affirm the individual rights of all persons, AAUW advocates:

- The right of reproductive choice
- A criminal justice system that provides protection for the public and preventative and rehabilitative programs for adult and juvenile offenders.
- Consumer protection under the law.
- Just and humane treatment of immigrants.

To achieve full recognition of women's worth, AAUW advocates:

- More women in elective and appointed offices and policy-making positions.
- Recognition of the value and efforts of volunteerism and care-giving.

To create sustainable, healthy communities, AAUW advocates:

- Access for all to reliable healthcare.
- User-friendly healthcare delivery systems.
- Emphasis on disease prevention.
- Quality nursing home care.

To promote the arts and humanities, AAUW advocates:

- Public and private funding of the arts.
- Establishment and maintenance of historical sites in the State of Michigan.
- Maintenance and expansion of library and media services.

To protect the environment, AAUW advocates:

- Domestic and International policies for the prevention and control of environmental pollution.
- Development and implementation of alternative energy technology.
- Increased emphasis on Energy conservation.
- Preservation of natural resources.

### File 3 Public Policy Director Job Descriptions

**AAUW Branch Public Policy Chair** (From the Association website at [http://www.aauw.org/member\\_center/leader\\_corner/brppchair.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/member_center/leader_corner/brppchair.cfm))

**Overview of the position:** Take action on federal, state, and local (e.g. school boards) public policy priorities and lead AAUW Voter Education Campaign efforts. Represent AAUW's public policy priorities to elected and appointed officials, AAUW members, the public, and the media.

#### **Overall responsibilities:**

- Recruit a branch team to help plan and implement public policy and Voter Education Campaign efforts.
- With your team, evaluate previous efforts and develop a branch public policy plan with measurable goals.
- Ensure that public policy and Voter Education Campaign priorities are included in your branch's annual plan.
- Develop an e-mail, fax, or telephone network to disseminate Voter Education Campaign and public policy information to branch members and coalition partners.
- With your team, monitor and encourage activism on AAUW legislative priorities.
- Work with other branch officers and committees to integrate public policy and the Voter Education Campaign with other branch priorities.
- Join community coalitions to work on AAUW public policy priorities.
- Ensure that the branch budget reflects public policy and Voter Education Campaign priorities.

**Specific responsibilities to your state:** Maintain regular contact with your state public policy chair and report on local activities. Share successful public policy strategies with your state public policy chair and other branches.

**Specific responsibilities to the Association:** Disseminate information received from AAUW on federal legislation, public policy initiatives, and the Voter Education Campaign to branch members and your community.

**Specific leadership skills helpful to the position:** Program planning and development, team building, coalition building, conflict resolution, consensus building, communications and public speaking, and media relations.

**Time commitments:** Along with the time necessary to accomplish the above responsibilities, serve on branch board of directors and other committees as assigned. Attendance at state conventions, regional conferences, and the AAUW national convention is encouraged.

**Available resources:** AAUW Public Policy Committee and staff, the state public policy chair and congressional district coordinator, *Get the Facts*, *Action Alert*, AAUW background and position papers, the Two-Minute Activist, AAUW's public policy brochure, the state public policy program, Association and state bylaws and resolutions, *Leader Tool Kit*, *Diversity Tool Kit*, membership campaign materials, and recognition program materials.

**Now compare your branch position description (above) to the state board position:**

## **AAUW State Public Policy Director**

**Overview of the position:** Take action on AAUW's federal, state, and local (e.g. school boards) public policy priorities and lead AAUW Voter Education Campaign efforts. Represent AAUW's public policy priorities to elected and appointed officials, AAUW members, the public, and the media.

### **Overall responsibilities:**

- Assemble and convene a public policy committee to plan and implement statewide public policy action and to provide training and resources to branch public policy chairs, other state leaders, and members.
- Evaluate previous public policy efforts and develop a public policy action plan with measurable goals and objectives.
- Ensure that public policy and the Voter Education Campaign priorities are included in your state strategic plan.
- Work with other state officers and committees to integrate public policy and the Voter Education Campaign with other state priorities including membership, diversity, program, leadership, and visibility.
- Develop a statewide e-mail, fax, or telephone network to disseminate Voter Education Campaign and public policy information to branches and coalition partners.
- Monitor and encourage activism on AAUW federal legislative priorities and on state legislative priorities as directed by the AAUW and state bylaws, resolutions, and the board.
- Develop an active network of contacts in each congressional district within your state.
- Spearhead and join statewide coalitions to work on AAUW public policy priorities.
- Develop and oversee the public policy and Voter Education Campaign budgets for your state.

**Specific responsibilities to branches in your state:** Encourage, support, and provide training to branches in building local coalitions and promoting AAUW's public policy agenda and Voter Education Campaign efforts. Maintain regular contact with your branch public policy chairs.

**Specific responsibilities to the Association:** Disseminate information received from the Association Public Policy Committee and staff and on federal legislation, public policy initiatives, and the Voter Education Campaign to the state board, branches, and members. Keep the Association updated on branch and state public policy and Voter Education Campaign activities.

**Specific leadership skills helpful to the position:** Program planning and development, team building, coalition building, conflict resolution, consensus building, communications and public speaking, and media relations.

**Time commitments:** Along with the time necessary to accomplish the above responsibilities, serve on the state board of directors and other committees as assigned. Attend state board meetings and conventions. Attendance at regional conferences and the AAUW national convention is strongly encouraged.

**Available resources:** AAUW Public Policy Committee and staff, the congressional district coordinator, *Get the Facts*, *Action Alert*, AAUW background and position papers, the Two-Minute Activist, AAUW's public policy brochure, the state public policy program, Association and state bylaws and resolutions, Branch Presidents/State Leaders Mailings, membership campaign materials, recognition program materials, *Leader Tool Kit*, and *Diversity Tool Kit*.

## File 4 Resources

### Association Public Policy Resources

AAUW website: [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)  
Hotline: 800/608-5286  
Phone: 202/728-7633  
Fax: 202/466-7618

### Staff and Contact Information for AAUW Public Policy and Government Relations Department:

Lisa Maatz, Director of Public Policy and Government Relations  
Angela Colaiuta, Field Director  
Lynsey Morris, Senior Lobbyist/Government Relations Manager  
Kelley Dupps, Senior Grassroots Coordinator  
Amy Buck, Legislative Assistant

AAUW-MI Public Policy Resources [www.aauw-michigan.org](http://www.aauw-michigan.org)

### Publications

*Action Alert* - A monthly public policy newsletter with information about federal legislative action on AAUW priority issues. Members can read the complete newsletter each month online in the Member Center.

Fact Sheets and Position Papers - Details of AAUW's positions on current federal policy issues and the facts that support AAUW's advocacy.

*Get the Facts* - Informative e-mail and fax alerts that provide individuals and organizations with information about congressional actions that affect women and families.

Public Policy Program - AAUW principles for action and biennial action priorities are clearly stated in this brochure available in the sales office or on the website at

[http://www.aauw.org/takeaction/principles\\_priorities.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/takeaction/principles_priorities.cfm)

Position papers. For updated position papers on AAUW's priority issues, visit the AAUW website at <http://www.aauw.org/takeaction/policyissues/index.cfm>

AAUW Voting Record. Copies of the most current voting record are available on the website at [http://www.aauw.org/takeaction/Voting\\_record\\_107th.pdf](http://www.aauw.org/takeaction/Voting_record_107th.pdf)

Two Minute Activist. It takes just two minutes to make your voice heard to members of Congress—one minute to read, one minute to act! Just visit <http://capwiz.com/aauw/home/>

## Track Legislation

You can get information on legislation currently under consideration in congress by calling the Public Policy Department or by visiting *Thomas Legislative Information on the Internet* at <http://thomas.loc.gov>. *Thomas* is a service of the Library of Congress, and allows you to search for legislation by bill number or key word.

## The Women's Network for Change

The Women's Network for Change is a coalition of organizations that collectively and individually work with AAUW to expand the reach of AAUW voter education campaign. These groups work to:

- Link individuals and women's and progressive organizations across the country
- Inform women voters
- Mobilize voters on issues affecting women, children, and families
- Encourage women to vote

Everyday, more organizations are joining the Women's Network for Change. To find out how your organization can join the Women's Network for Change, contact [votered@aauw.org](mailto:votered@aauw.org) or call 800/608-5286. To receive Get the Facts, complete and send a subscription form or call 800/608-5286. To date the coalition includes:

American Association of University Women  
Abortion Access Project  
Advocates for Youth  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
American Jewish Congress  
American Medical Women's Association  
Business and Professional Women/USA  
Center for the Child Care Workforce  
Center for Ethics in Action  
Center for Policy Alternatives  
Coalition of Labor Union Women  
Federally Employed Women  
Feminist Majority  
Fifty plus One  
Girls Incorporated  
Gray Panthers  
Hadassah  
Jewish Women International  
MANA, A National Latina Organization  
Ms. Foundation for Women  
9to5  
NARAL Pro-Choice America  
National Association of Working Women  
National Abortion Federation  
National Association of Social Workers

National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council of Negro Women  
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association  
National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc.  
National Network of Abortion Funds ~  
National Organization for Women ~  
National Partnership for Women and Families  
National Political Congress of Black Women, Inc.  
National Women's Law Center ~  
National Women's Political Caucus ~  
New Girl Times ~  
OWL The Voice of Mid-Life and Older Women ~  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
ProChoice Resource Center  
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice  
United States Student Association  
Wider Opportunities for Women ~  
Women Work!  
Women's Campaign Fund ~  
Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press  
Women's Environment and Development Organization  
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom ~  
Women's Opportunity Center  
YWCA of the U.S.A.

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Contact Us

- Find the following information and a lot more at <http://www.michigan.gov>
  - How does a Bill become a Law?
  - Senate TV Live!
  - House TV Live!
  - Read the State's Official Manual
  - Legislative Session Calendars
  - Learn About the Michigan Legislature
  - Session Schedules
- Find a computer lab in your community and have a branch meeting to explore the Association and Michigan AAUW web sites! Contact the Public Policy Director for further information.

- <http://www.legislature.mi.gov> Look what you can do from this site!



Michigan Compiled Laws Complete Through

PA 322 of 2003

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- Advanced Search

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- Freq Requests (alpha)
- Search Wizard
- Basic MCL Search
- Advanced MCL Search
- Constitution Search
- Chapter Index
- Executive Orders
- Historical Documents
- MCL Tables

### Publications

- Publications
- Publications (text only)

## Welcome to the Michigan Legislature Website!

*A free service of the Michigan Legislative Council, the Michigan House of Representatives, and the Michigan Senate.*

 **Now available for purchase!** The **2003-2004 Michigan Manual.** NEW



## Legislative Bill Search

### Bill Number

(ex. "4001" or "4001-4005")

### Bill Full Text Search

(ex. "environment")

## Michigan Compiled Laws

### MCL Section

(ex. "2.29" or "8.40-8.50")

### MCL Full Text Search

(ex. "tenant")

## Related Sites

- Michigan House
- Michigan Senate

- Sample from AAUW-Michigan web site.

Fact Sheets and Position Papers are on the Association web site. Relevant organizations will have information on their web sites.

Check with the Public Policy Director at the branch, state or association level. If it is regarding a coalition, contact our representative to that coalition.

#### Affirmative Action Initiative

An effort to nullify the U. S. Supreme Court's ruling upholding the University of Michigan's affirmative action program is underway in Michigan. The "American Civil Right Institute" (**ACRI**) and the "American Civil Rights Coalition" (**ACRC**) are organizations from Californian Ward Connerly using his personal wealth to end affirmative action in Michigan

Don't sign **ACRI** or **ACRC** Petitions!

We want to keep Michigan on the path of progress toward real equality. This petition initiative is a slyly worded petition asking to change Michigan's Constitution. If this initiative is successful, it will set back the progress we've made toward ethnic and cultural diversity throughout our entire state. The ballot proposal is much broader than proponents admit, with devastating consequences. It will harm recruitment for community services, such as police and fire departments; immediately end programs that have helped women and people of color get better jobs and education; will negatively affect women-owned and minority-owned businesses; will result in reduction of programs that encourage women and girls to enter non-traditional professions; and may eliminate diversity-based scholarships.

AAUW is partnering in coalition with Citizens for a United Michigan. It is a broad based coalition of civil rights, civic, religious, education and community groups.

For more updates on the petition initiative you may want to visit their website:

<http://www.oneunitedmichigan.org>.