

AAUW of Michigan Public Policy Priorities 2021-2023

AAUW is non-partisan but not values-neutral. We fight to remove barriers and biases that stand in the way of gender equity. Public Policy Priorities underscore AAUW's mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

AAUW of Michigan Public Policy Priorities are developed by the AAUWMI Public Policy Committee in alignment with AAUW Public Policy Priorities (2021-2023) and approved by the AAUWMI Board. <https://www.aauwmi.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/AAUW-of-Michigan-AAUWMI-Public-Policy-Priorities-2021-2023.pdf>

Education

To support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, diversity and inclusivity, and to address the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women and girls, our priorities focus on:

- Vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education
- Adequate and equitable funding for and access to quality public education, including early childhood education, for all students
- Opposition to the use of public funds for nonpublic elementary and secondary education and to charter schools that do not adhere to the same civil rights and accountability standards as required of other public schools
- Increased support for and protection of programs that meet the needs of girls and women in elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education, including strong promotion of science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) education and comprehensive sexual health education
- Increased support for and access to affordable higher education for women, including alleviating the debt burden that disproportionately impacts borrowers of color and exacerbates the racial wealth gap.

Economic Security

To achieve economic security for all women, our priorities focus on:

- Pay equity and fairness in compensation and benefits

- Equitable access and advancement in employment, free from systemic barriers and biases, including vigorous enforcement of employment discrimination statutes
- Closing the gender and race gaps in leadership opportunities for women of all backgrounds
- Greater availability of and access to a high standard of benefits and policies that promote work-life balance, including quality and affordable dependent care and paid family, medical, and sick leave
- Programs that provide women with education, training, and support for success in the workforce, including nontraditional occupations and women's entrepreneurship
- Strengthening retirement benefits and programs, including pension improvements and protecting Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid from privatization
- Increasing the number of quality jobs that pay a living wage

Equality, Individual Rights, and Social Justice

To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society, our priorities focus on:

- Vigorous enforcement of and full access to civil and constitutional rights, including affirmative action and expanding voting rights
- Self-determination of one's reproductive health decisions
- Universal access to quality, affordable health care and comprehensive family planning services, including expansion of patients' rights
- Freedom from violence and fear of violence, including hate crimes, in homes, schools, workplaces, and communities
- Freedom in the definition of self and family, including protection from discrimination and a guarantee of civil rights for all family structures

AAUW's Public Policy Priorities (2021-2023) may be accessed at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/aauw-public-policy-priorities/>