



PUBLIC POLICY INNOVATIONS: COMMITTED, ENTHUSIASTIC AND UNLEASHING THE POWER OF PUBLIC POLICY

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INTRODUCTIONS



Definition: Public Policy

- "...a system of laws, regulatory measures, courses of action, and funding priorities concerning a given topic promulgated by a governmental entity or its representatives. "

- Dean G. Kilpatrick, Ph.D.
National Violence Against Women Prevention Research Center,
Medical University of South Carolina (2009)

**AAUW
PUBLIC
POLICY
IS
LEADING
THE
WAY!**

AAUW: COMMITTED TO ACTION!

However, false perceptions can prevent us from taking action. For example:

- “Progress has been made, so we can all go home and rest – our job is done.”
- “Women’s rights? SO old school!”
- “Discrimination is not widespread.”



NOT SO!

AAUW: COMMITTED TO ACTION!

Or maybe you've heard these:

- “Only uneducated and unskilled women experience workplace discrimination.”
- “Men are not interested in these issues, so women have to do it *all*.”
- “Advocates for equal rights are selfish.”

NOT SO!



MYTH BUSTING: LET ME TELL YOU A LITTLE STORY...

- See for yourself:

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/business/2013/07/man-named-kim-adds-mr-to-resume-lands-job/>

MYTH BUSTING: STILL NOT CONVINCED?

A woman's secret life posing as a man in Egypt [to escape employment restrictions]

(NY Times, March 26, 2015)

Gender bias case against Sterling Jewelers can proceed

(NY Times, Feb. 4, 2015)

Schoolgirls are facing more threats, U.N. reports

(NY Times, Feb. 10, 2015)

Tech's gender gap is widening

(USA Today, March 27, 2015)

...and...

The pay gap for women's' median annual earnings =
22%

(The Simple Truth, 2015 Edition)

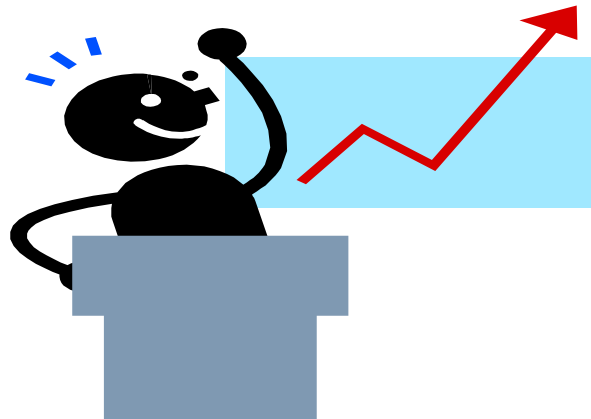
MYTH BUSTING: THE MORAL?

- “Our work is not done.”
- “Equal rights are a current issue!”
- “Discrimination is widespread, locally, nationally, and internationally.”
- “*Anyone* can experience workplace discrimination.”
- “Men are interested in these issues, so women *do not* have to do it all.”
- “Advocates for equal rights benefit our community and our world!”

NOW LET'S GET ENTHUSIASTIC!

Be encouraged!

There are *many* ways to change things for the better!



Let's Review: Public Policy

- "...a system of laws, regulatory measures, courses of action, and funding priorities concerning a given topic promulgated by a governmental entity or its representatives. "

- Dean G. Kilpatrick, Ph.D.
National Violence Against Women Prevention Research Center,
Medical University of South Carolina (2009)

- **AAUW's Public Policy staff work in all of these areas.**

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SCOPE OF PUBLIC POLICY: LAW- MAKING

Bill

- Every law begins as a proposal from a member of the Senate or House of Representatives. The bill's sponsor provides copies for all members of that house to read.

Standing Committee

- The bill goes to a standing House or Senate committee for study and discussion in light of expert testimony. The committee releases the bill, revises it or tables it for later.

Floor Debate

- A released bill eventually goes to the House or Senate floor, for further debate and amendment, if necessary. It passes or fails by a simple majority vote: 218 of 435 in the House or 51 of 100 in the Senate. Once passed, it repeats the process in the other house.

Conference Committee

- After a passing vote, conference committee members from the House and Senate work out any differences between their versions of the bill. The revised bill then goes to each house for final approval and enrollment.

Law

- The speaker of the house and vice president sign the enrolled bill, followed by the president, who has 10 days to sign or veto it. A vetoed bill can still become law if two-thirds of the Senate and two-thirds of the House then vote to pass it.

From http://www.ehow.com/facts_6752725_laws-passed-united-states-government_.html

This very lengthy process means:

- More opportunities for AAUW National and State Offices to provide input!
- More opportunities to call, email, write and otherwise inform your elected representatives!
 - More opportunities for local branches to do education and outreach!
 - (More about this later...)

**SCOPE
OF
PUBLIC
POLICY:
LAW-
MAKING**

- Each agency (such as the Department of Labor) and state has processes for implementing **regulations**, but these are grounded in state and federal **legislation (see above)**.
- For more information, visit *Project Vote Smart*:
<http://votesmart.org/education/#.U6sk1rGmWMg>

SCOPE OF PUBLIC POLICY: REGULATORY MEASURES

Scope of Public Policy: Courses of Action

- **Example: President Obama's Executive Order -- Non-Retaliation for Disclosure of Compensation Information (2014)**

“By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act, 40 U.S.C. 101 *et seq.*, and in order to take further steps to promote economy and efficiency in Federal Government procurement, it is hereby ordered as follows:...”

Again, it's all about **legislation** (see above).

- From <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office>

SCOPE OF PUBLIC POLICY: COURSES OF ACTION

- Better known as “the budget”.
- Budgets are not value-neutral.
- Budgets are created by your elected officials:

“After the House and Senate resolve the differences between their competing bills, a final conference report is considered on the floor of each house and then goes to the President for his signature or veto.”

In other words, the budget is
legislated.

- From <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/?fa=view&id=155>

SCOPE OF PUBLIC POLICY: FUNDING PRIORITIES

THIS JUST IN!!!

Reasons to Hope:

- **Congress Reintroduces Paycheck Fairness Act; Senate Considers Budget Resolution Amendments on Related Issues (better luck next time...)**
- **Phoenix City Council Unanimously Passes Equal Pay Measure (and took Ms. Ledbetter to lunch!)**
- **Supreme Court Rules for Former UPS Driver in Pregnancy Discrimination Case**

And...AAUW Members Hold Equal Pay Event at the Capitol (Delaware)

- AAUW National, March 27, 2015



“Since AAUW’s founding our members and supporters have spoken out about policies important to women and girls...

In recent years, such legislation included the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, and the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act...

Without their voices, invaluable legislation would have never been passed.”

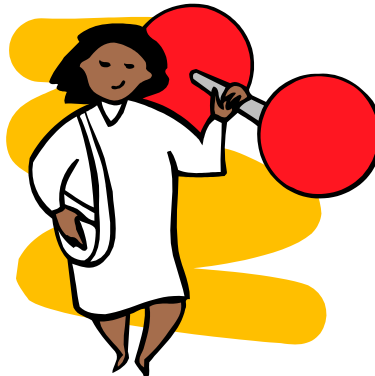
-AAUW Public Policy website

LET'S UNLEASH OUR POWER!

The AAUW websites provides:

- current AAUW issues
- resources
- easy, quick, and simple options for local involvement.

<http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/>



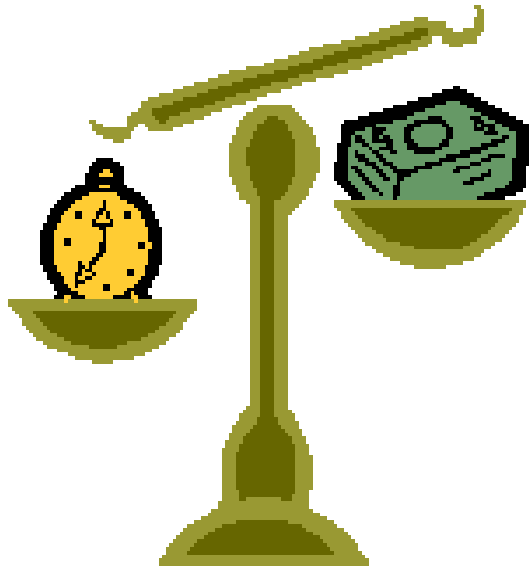
CURRENT AAUW ISSUES

Civil Rights

- **AAUW advocates for equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society.**
- Affirmative action
- Federal judicial nominations
- Hate crimes prevention
- Human trafficking
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues
- Reproductive rights



CURRENT AAUW ISSUES



Economic Security

- **AAUW advocates for all women to achieve economic self-sufficiency.**
- Health care
- Pay equity
- Paid sick days
- Retirement security
- Social Security privatization
- Work-life balance

CURRENT AAUW ISSUES

Education

- **AAUW supports a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity.**
- Career and technical education
- Charter schools
- Common core standards
- Disabilities
- Education and training in welfare/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Higher education
- No Child Left Behind Act
- School vouchers
- Single-sex education
- Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education
- Sexual harassment and violence in school



CURRENT AAUW ISSUES



Title IX

- **AAUW supports vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education.**
- Title IX
- Equity in school athletics
- Sexual harassment
- Single-sex education

AAUW PUBLIC POLICY RESOURCES

Tools for public policy leaders include:

- **Conference calls (TOLL FREE!)**
- **Contact information for national staff (FREE!)**
- **Guidelines for registering voters** – Make this an event! **(FREE HOW-TOS!)**
- **Two-Minute Activist** – Sign up for **FREE** email alerts and contact your representative in two minutes or less! (I use it, and it works!)
- While you're logged on, why not **Shop AAUW?** (Or request **FREE** stuff!)
<http://aauw.source4.com/b2c/sites/AAUWMember/Home.asp>
- **Woman-to-Woman Voter Turnout Manual** – You guessed it - download for **FREE!**

AAUW PUBLIC POLICY RESOURCES

Remember:

Fund-raising is one of our best tools!



Membership dues and contributions allow our AAUW office to keep our essential state and national presence.

FUNDS = ADVOCACY

PUBLIC POLICY RESOURCES

Your first-ever public policy program?

Looking for new ideas?

Need something *yesterday*?

Check out **Programs in a Box**, under the
“Resources” tab:

<http://www.aauw.org/resources/>



PUBLIC POLICY ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Program-in-a-Box topics include, for example:

- Know the Score: Title IX Compliance in Schools
- \$tart \$mart
- Cocktails and Convos
- Screen a Movie
- The Invisible War
- Life after 50
- Global Issues
- Sexual Harassment

Or, what about a good, old-fashioned letter-writing campaign?



PUBLIC POLICY ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Also, try thinking outside the box:

“We Did It for You!” by Dr. Thea Iberall, AAUW
Member and Author



Drama + Private funding + Volunteers =
Success!

Bottom Line:

**How can we create positive social
change?**

THROUGH PUBLIC POLICY!



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Pasquale, April 11, 2015

QUESTION AND ANSWER

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!