

Public Policy

19 Bills Targeted for Lobby Days

By Jeanne Delp

One Hundred fifty-four AAUW CA members from 63 branches represented all of us on April 2 and 3 during Lobby Days—a time to present our support for 3 bills before the California State Legislature. Ten teams met in person in Sacramento while 36 teams zoomed into meetings with an elected legislator or a staff member. A total of 68 meetings were held to lobby for 3 “A” AAUW CA’s priority bills. Excellent work by Amy Hom and Missy Maceyko, co-chairs of AAUW California Public Policy Committee, made the presentations a success!

So what does this mean? Well, a lot of hard work, for one thing. The Public Policy Committee met in March and reviewed **67** bills, considering potential cost, benefits AND alignment with our Public Policy Priorities. The end result: the top bills consist of 3 “A” priority bills, 4 “B” priority bills, and 12 spot bills that are being watched.

All chosen bills on the Public Policy agenda fall under at least one of our PP pillars. Click: [AAUW PP Priorities](#).

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The following articles have been edited for length:

“Excitingly, our signature ‘A’ priority bill **AB 2843** ‘Health Care Coverage for Rape and Sexual Assault Survivors’ was authored . . . and sponsored by AAUW California and falls under two of our Public Policy Priorities, ‘Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society’ and ‘Economic Security for All Women’. The bill eliminates cost sharing, including deductibles, from being imposed on any rape survivor seeking medical care following a rape. Insurers will be required to cover the cost of medical care with no copay. This bill ensures that those individuals who wish to report a rape and file charges will have the benefit of a rape kit test and forensic exam to provide evidence to secure more convictions for acts of sexual violence. In addition, they can receive the care they need following a traumatic sexual attack.

“Our second ‘A’ priority bill, **AB 2326** ‘Title IX Oversight and Compliance Act,’ is also sponsored by AAUW California. This bill. . . ‘Equal Access to Quality Education for All Students’. . . champions something that AAUW California has long supported: Title IX enforcement. This bill requires the Chancellors of the Community Colleges and State Universities and the President of the University of California to provide an annual report of their compliance with Title IX, with the report to be presented publicly and orally to the Senate and Assembly Budget Sub-committees on Higher Education Finance, a move to hold the systems, and their leaders more publicly accountable.”

“Our third ‘A’ priority bill is **AB 2099**, ‘Protecting Reproductive Health Clinics’ . . . The bill makes it possible for the D.A. to file a felony charge for sharing personal information or images of individuals such as reproductive health care providers or patients, with the intent of causing harm or violence against them, if the posting and subsequent action

results in bodily injury. With violence against abortion providers continuing to raise, this bill is more important than ever.”

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So again, what does this mean? Lobby Days prepares you via a Zoom session from the AAUW-CA Public Policy committee. All of the information is then posted on AAUW-CA for you to download as needed: Complete Short Scripts for the presentation of each of the bills (usually you present just one) as well as Background Materials for your own understanding. You receive information concerning your teammates, your designated legislator/staff, and time of your Zoom meeting. The team is allowed a total of 20 minutes for the presentation and discussion of the three bills. When completed you are individually asked to evaluate the process in order to make improvements for the next year.

So, once again, what does this mean for you? Remembering the suggested words from my column on [Finding Words That Get Results \(June 2023\)](#), I recommend that you become a volunteer on Lobby Day, because you just might become the key influencer who makes a difference in the life of your daughter, granddaughter, or a future AAUW member!