

## **Public Policy**

# *Gender Bias in Education Holds Women Back*

**By Jeanne Delp**

The following is from "Katrina Sun Breese, AAUW" ([memberinfo@email.aauw.org](mailto:memberinfo@email.aauw.org))

"Boys are more likely than girls to be identified as gifted students? Girls are often steered away from math and science fields as early as elementary school?"

"These biases have real, lasting consequences on the next generation. That's why AAUW is actively leading the fight for gender equity in education.

"Here's how:

- We fight for inclusive schools by combating harmful book bans and other restrictions undermining inclusive education. We host informative webinars and provide materials that empower members to engage with local school boards.
- We advocate for safe and harassment-free educational environments by supporting the new Title IX rules that strengthen protections for student survivors of sexual harassment and assault and ensure equal education opportunities for pregnant and parenting students.
- We support making colleges more affordable through our advocacy to double Pell Grants, which would significantly increase financial aid for low-income students, many of whom are women and underrepresented minorities."

AAUW's advocates for a strong public education system that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity, and vigorous enforcement of Title IX.

And from "Gloria L. Blackwell, AAUW" our CEO at [memberinfo@email.aauw.org](mailto:memberinfo@email.aauw.org):

"This season, we face a troubling setback: unfortunately, the gender pay gap has widened. Women working full-time now earn just 83% of what men earn — a decline from last year's 84%. This amounts to a loss of \$11,550 annually for each full-time working woman. While there have been gains in real earnings for both men and women, women, especially women of color, continue to be pushed into lower-wage jobs.

"This pay gap hurts us, our families, and our communities. As I've said before, the pay gap should be shrinking, not growing.

"We must address the systemic barriers that keep women from earning their fair share — like the lack of paid leave, affordable childcare, and strong pay equity laws.

"Remember: Voting is how we make ourselves heard."

As we head into our November election, let's remember the following phrase.

**"When women vote, we change the conversation."**