



## AAUW-WA 2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Here is a list and short summary of bills we wish to support. Please check our website for the latest Legislative Update and public policy news. Because the legislative process is fluid and fast paced, the status of a bill may change over time, but AAUW-WA support for the issues in our [public policy priorities](#) won't change.

### Lobby Day Speakers will provide background on two AAUW-WA priority bills

- 1. Keep Our Care Act.** [SB 5688](#)/HB 1809, sponsored by Sen Randall and Rep Simmons respectively, would ensure that health entity mergers and acquisitions improve, rather than harm, access to affordable quality care. The official title of SB 5688/HB 1809 is a long one: *Concerning material changes to the operations and governance structure of participants in the health care marketplace*. See the [KOCA fact sheet](#). On Monday we will talk about *Call to Action* for this bill.
- 2. Concerning Protections and Services for Indigenous Persons who are Missing Murdered or Survivors of Human Trafficking.** [HB 1571](#), sponsored by Rep Mosbrucker, builds off legislation passed both in 2017 and 2018, addressing the ongoing tragedy of missing and indigenous persons. Referred to as *Bring Them Home*, this bill “gives families the right to pray over their deceased loved ones, creates an amber alert for missing American Indians, makes sex trafficking hotline information accessible in high-risk areas and creates a healing center for sex trafficked survivors.” Read more [here](#).

### Education continues to be a top Priority of AAUW

- 3. Creating Teaching Endorsements in Computer Science.** [SB 5389](#), sponsored by Sen Wellman would allow current teachers to be qualified to teach computer science. These specialty endorsements will allow greater accessibility to computer science courses and skills to underserved communities. This bill fits with AAUW-WA political priorities in promoting STEM education at all levels and supporting the training of women for careers. The bill complements AAUW-WA Tech Trek goals for middle school girls by enhancing resources for them to continue CS education in high school. And, we know that computer science engineers and other professional jobs have chronically low representation of women.

There are two bills that are follow-up to the bill we supported last session: Improving care for survivors of non-fatal strangulation ([SB 5183](#)), which passed unanimously in both chambers. You can thank your legislators for voting for it. And ask them to now vote for these two bills.

4. **Creating programs to encourage sexual assault nurse examiner training.** [HB 1621](#), sponsored by Rep. Mosbrucker, would require the Department of Health to establish a stipend program for licensed nurses training to become certified sexual assault nurse examiners (SANEs). HB 1621 is an attempt to address the acute problem of many counties not having SANE nurses available to offer services to sexual assault survivors.
5. **Increasing the availability of sexual assault nurse examiner education in rural and underserved communities.** [HB 1622](#), also sponsored by Rep Mosbrucker, would require the WA State University College of Nursing to establish a sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE) online and clinical training program, and a regional SANE leader pilot program. Only Harborview Medical Center in Seattle now offers this program.
6. **Higher Education Affordability.** [HB 1659](#) sponsored by Rep Slatter would make higher education more affordable and accessible for students. It expands the Washington College Grant (WCG) program by modifying the income eligibility thresholds and award levels. And it allows for an additional annual stipend for expenses beyond tuition and fees such as books, lab fees, supplies, technology, transportation, housing, and child care.

#### Other Lobby Day Bills reviewed and vetted for support by National

##### Workplace Protections

7. **Changes to the Paid Family Leave.** [SB 5649](#) sponsored by Sen Robinson, will make improvements to our Paid Family and Medical Leave law by making it more compassionate and easier for workers, health care providers, and employers to utilize. See [SB 5694 Factsheet from EOI](#).

*“This language and the intent of the legislation falls squarely within the center of AAUW’s economic security PPPs. The list of current supporters [includes] many of which, AAUW works with in coalition on the federal level.”* From AAUW national.

8. **Pay Gap Legislation.** [SB 5761](#) is sponsored by Sen Randall and Sen Keiser. This legislation that would require employers to provide wage and salary information to applicants for employment.

*“The legislation’s intent falls within AAUW’s economic security PPPs (equal pay, paycheck fairness).* From AAUW national.

##### Civil Rights

9. **Preserving Abortion Access** [HB 1851 /SB 5766](#) Preserving a pregnant individual's ability to access abortion care, sponsored by Rep Thai and Sen Randall respectively, would grant specific statutory authorization for physician assistants, advanced registered nurse practitioners, and certain other providers acting within their scopes of practice to perform abortions. It also prohibits the state from taking action against an individual based on pregnancy outcomes or for assisting a pregnant individual in exercising the right to reproductive freedom. Read more [here](#).

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*“The language of the legislation is in line with AAUW’s civil rights PPPs (reproductive rights), yes, AAUW supports.”* From AAUW National

### Advocacy Resources

To find bill information, go to the Washington State Legislature website at <https://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/> and enter the four-digit bill number. You can track the progress of a bill and view tapes of hearings (see the link at the bottom of the page.)

To find information about a member of the Washington House of Representatives go to <https://leg.wa.gov/house/Pages/default.aspx>.

To find information about a member of the Washington Senate go to <https://leg.wa.gov/senate/Pages/default.aspx>.

To register to testify for a bill, comment on a bill, or submit written testimony to a committee, go to <https://leg.wa.gov/legislature/Pages/Participating.aspx>. When doing so, keep it brief, do not spend time describing the bill, and tie your position to values that all our members share regardless of party. You do not need to focus on all aspects of the bills; it is okay to address just one part of a bill if that is what is most relevant to you. If possible, tell a story about an experience that relates to the intent of the bill. Be respectful. Remember that you can only lobby as an AAUW member on bills that AAUW has approved.