

NOVEMBER 2023

PUBLIC POLICY-DIVERSITY, EQUITY and INCLUSION

Did you know that the Public Policy Committee of AAUW CA not only tracks bills that enhance and ensure equity for women and girls and much more, but they also sponsor legislation? It is exciting to report that an AAUW CA co-sponsored bill, AB 1078, which deals with “preserving historically accurate and representative curricula for public schools in California” has been signed into law by the governor. You can track all the bills that AAUW CA supports here: [Bill Tracking](#)

Speaking of CA public schools... There is a movement across the country, as well as here in California, to install school board members who want to ban books, censor curricula, and establish policies that are harmful to LGBTQ+ and other minority students. The School Board Project (SBP) subcommittee has been formed to develop steps that branch members can take to help monitor and protect our schools. On September 21, the AAUW CA Public Policy School Board Project webinar presented this project. There is a toolkit which has resources, checklists, how to seek out candidates for school boards, how to support a campaign, how to evaluate a school board meeting and speak effectively at one. There were also hints on diffusing difficult situations and how to protect yourself. If you missed this webinar, you can access it here: <https://youtu.be/08hRjvBBkFI>

And if you have not yet responded to the SBP survey, which asks questions about YOUR school districts, take a moment and do so. You can find the survey [HERE](#). Finally, November 25 is the U.N. International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Violence against women is a global issue, a human rights violation, a consequence of discrimination and persisting inequalities between women and men. Prevention is possible and essential. Find out more here: <http://www.un.org/en/events/endviolenceday/>

What you can do....

- Track CA bills that AAUW-CA is supporting.
- Take the School Board Survey and watch the SBP webinar.
- Support the elimination of violence against women.

Penny Harris Public Policy, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Chair

OCTOBER 2023

PUBLIC POLICY-DIVERSITY, EQUITY and INCLUSION

AAUW CALIFORNIA Expands Education Goal and Establishes New Project A Pause to Reflect in the Midst of National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15th - October 15th).

Latina Equal Pay Day is October 5th and the day to remember that Latina women are paid on average 54 cents for every dollar paid to non-hispanic white men.

The good news is when women organize progress is made. Recently about 50 immigrant Hispanic women in New York City organized the first US women-led workers' hub through which they have

created Liberty Cleaners, an educational-advocacy group where they learn about their rights for fair wages and safe working conditions as well as green cleaning procedures.

Closer to us, the mostly Latina immigrant garment workers in LA County experience “wage theft” and deplorable working conditions. Sixty per cent of all US fashion garment workers are in the LA area. Recently they organized and formed Remake, a women’s rights group for ethical fashion and were able to get SB 62, The Garment Workers Protection Act, passed and signed into law by Gov. Newsom.

But what about our nation’s Dreamers and DACA? The Dreamers are undocumented immigrants brought to the USA as young children who live here without legal status. In 2012 President Obama signed an executive order called the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program or DACA which is a two year renewable work permit with access to student loans and other programs. It is a temporary program which has been on a legal roller coaster for years and last month was declared illegal again. A case to determine its legality is expected to go to the US Supreme Court. Experts say a bill passed by congress is the legal way to give the Dreamers a pathway to citizenship. Roberto G. Gonzales, Harvard Professor of Education has written *Lives in Limbo: Undocumented and Coming of Age in America* in which he profiles young adults and the positive effects of DACA not only in the lives of the DACA youth, but in their families and their communities.

What can we do? Perhaps read Professor Gonzales’ book, look into Remake’s clothing industry vision or what the NYC Liberty Cleaners are up to, and support local Hispanic businesses. La Cabana anyone?

Penny Harris Public Policy, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Chair

SEPTEMBER 2023

PUBLIC POLICY-DIVERSITY, EQUITY and INCLUSION

AAUW CALIFORNIA Expands Education Goal and Establishes New Project

In a 2023 AAUW CA survey, members expressed concerns about book banning and K-12 school curricula that “denies access to historically accurate information”. In light of that survey and AAUW’s long standing goal of “Equal Access to Quality Public Education for All Students,” our state board has added the following point to that goal: “Access to diverse staff and curriculum that represents historically accurate information.”

To implement that enhanced goal, AAUW CA has established “The School Board Project.” To learn more about this project, join the virtual, on-line discussion September 21st at 7 pm. Kathi Harper, AAUW CA School Board Project Committee Chair will explain this project and how all AAUW CA members can help. Registration is now open and the link to register is below. In the meantime our branch is exploring ways to collaborate with our local Shasta County Schools Superintendent and the local League of Women Voters to support our local schools and ensure Equal Access to Quality Education for All Students. Stay tuned.

What you can do... September 21, 7:00 pm AAUW CA virtual discussion - new School Board Project. To register, go to Webinar: Book Banning and Curricula Censorship in California? AAUW California to the Rescue! - AAUW California (aauw-ca.org)

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