

AAUW of South Carolina 2003-2004 Public Policy Program

Current Action Priorities

- Increase awareness and response to the inequities created by gender bias at all levels of education.
- Oppose school vouchers and any other use of public education funds for other than public education.
- Support adequate and equitable funding to promote quality education for students at all levels of education.
- Resist state efforts allowing government to interfere in women's rights to make personal and private health decisions, including reproduction.
- Promote continued implementation of health, family life and sexuality education in grades K-12 throughout the state, by trained teachers.
- Ensure continued state funding for adolescent pregnancy prevention councils throughout the state.
- Support higher levels of training and education for all child care providers.
- Support efforts to assure that child care providers are equitably compensated commensurate with their training, dedication, skills and experience.
- Support effective legislation that will eliminate predatory lending practices so that all citizens can obtain credit.

In addition, AAUW of South Carolina Supports

Rights of the Individual

- Measures to ensure pay equity
- Freedom and protection from violence, domestic abuse, and sexual harassment

Education

- Educational equity for women and girls in all educational institutions receiving public funds
- Early childhood preparation to ensure readiness to enter school
- Reduction of class size in low-performing public schools
- Education programs to meet the needs of adolescent parents
- Protection of academic freedom
- Popular election of all school boards in the state

Government Procedures

- Appointment of more women to state and local boards and commissions
- Limitation of terms on public boards and commissions, except for salaried commissioners and lifetime appointments

Health Care

- Measures to improve the accessibility and affordability of quality health care for all citizens
- Increased ratio of registered nurses serving in schools to student enrollment

Community and Environment

- Mandatory licensing of all child care facilities
- Measures to provide affordable and quality dependent care for all ages
- Measures to control environmental pollution and to protect and restore air and water quality
- Changes in the criminal justice system, emphasizing prevention rather than punishment, creating alternatives to incarceration for non-violent criminals, as well as in-prison programs that encourage the rehabilitation of inmates.