



Public Policy Committee Report to the 2016 Annual Meeting  
April 2, 2016

**AAUW NC Public Policy Priorities for 2016 Legislative Session:**

**Economic Self Sufficiency**

- **Raise the minimum wage**– *Support legislation bringing the minimum wage in line with the current economy.*
- **Promote equal pay policies and practices to close the gender gap** – *Support legislation to close the earning ratio of women and men working full time, year-round.*

**Education**

- **Increase support for quality, locally governed public education** – *Support legislation restoring recent funding cuts to public education in North Carolina; develop teacher salary schedules which reward professional development and longevity.*
- **Promote educational opportunities for girls and women** – *Support funding for Title IX and STEM programs*

**Equal Rights (NEW for 2016)**

- **Support passage of the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution.**

**Health Care**

- **Expand Medicaid** – *Support action to accept new federal Medicaid funds to expand insurance coverage to low-income North Carolinians.*

**AAUW NC will continue its active participation with other significant women's groups that impact public policy. These groups include:**

**NC Women Matter**—The Public Policy Committee has been involved in the design of a new voter's guide for women which will be published in the summer of 2016. Assistance is needed in three areas:

1. Volunteers to help distribute the Voter's guide to target audiences.
2. "Women to Women" letter writing campaign to get women to come to the polls and vote. NC Women Matter will provide names and addresses and model letters. You are asked to prepare and mail hand written letters to women to encourage them to vote.
3. Attendance at Bennet 5 in Greensboro on Saturday July 30, 2016.

**NC ERA Alliance**—This is a new initiative designed to bring together various groups in North Carolina to support passage of the Equal Rights Amendment to the US constitution. The Board of Directors of AAUW NC agreed that AAUW NC will serve as a Lead Member of the new ERA Alliance in North Carolina. This means that AAUW NC will have members on the board of the new alliance. The official roll out of the Alliance and its work will be on April 12<sup>th</sup> at Wake Forest University. Diana Gray will represent AAUW at the roll-out.

**Cities for CEDAW—Women NC**—CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against women) is a United Nation's statement against discrimination of women. The United State is one of only a few countries that has not signed this declaration. In an effort to promote the concepts in the declaration, several cities in the US have adopted programs based on CEDAW. A coalition of women's groups in the Triangle area is focused on getting communities in NC to adopt these concepts. Wake County has just completed its own assessment of women in the workforce.

Thanks to members of the Public Policy Committee: Karla Atkinson, Diana Gray, Mary Peterson, and Pat Sledge and others who subscribe to the PP-info mailing list. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please let me know.

Submitted by Denny McGuire, April 2, 2016