

AAUW-NE Legislative Update
February 9, 2017
By Liz Rea, Public Policy Chair

At its January 29, 2017 meeting, the AAUW-NE Board of Directors considered 24 recommendations as possible legislative priorities for the 2017 Unicameral session. After thorough discussion, board members took action to make 17 of the recommendations our 2017 legislative priorities. They include 16 bills and one legislative resolution. The priorities are divided into five categories: Good Government (GG), Health Care/Health Insurance (HC/HI), Crime and Punishment (CP), Public Education (PE), and Social and Economic Justice (SEJ). The AAUW-NE position adopted on each, support or oppose, aligns with that of AAUW at the national level as noted in its “2015-2017 Public Policy Program” brochure.

To follow the progress of any one or more of the priorities, you are encouraged to log on to www.Nebraskalegislature.gov. Look for “Search Current Bills” in the upper right portion of the home page. Entering a bill (LB) number or resolution (LR) number will retrieve the bill or resolution’s text, fiscal note, statement of intent, votes, transcript, and more. You can also search current laws using the keyword search found below the bill search. Also on the home page, go to the “Senators” link and click on “Find your senator” and follow the prompts if you’re not sure who your senator is. Go to “Senators Web Pages” to click on a “Print Friendly List of Current Senators—Sorted By both Last Name and District” for correct contact information.

Another reliable source of information about the Unicameral is *The Unicameral Update*, a free weekly newsletter published during the legislative session. It is produced by the Clerk of the Legislature’s Office through the Unicameral Information Office. For print subscriptions, call 402-471-2788 or email uio@leg.ne.gov. You can visit online at Update.Legislature.ne.gov and follow what’s going on at [Twitter.com/UnicamUpdate](https://twitter.com/UnicamUpdate).

At critical times during the legislative process involving our priorities, you will be requested to contact your senator or senators by means of an “Action Alert”. You can respond by means of a letter sent by U.S. Mail to the State Capitol mailing address: Senator’s Name, District Number State Capitol, PO Box 94604, Lincoln, NE 68509-4604. You’re also welcome to contact senators by telephone, by email or in person. When you do make contact with a senator, always be sure you tell them what the AAUW-NE position on a certain bill is (“Support or Oppose”) and encourage them to support the same position. Refer to the “Talking Points” that appear in the “Description” cell regarding many of the bills/resolution on the spreadsheet listing our 2017 Legislative Priorities. Answer any questions they may have or refer them to me at lrea.omaha@gmail.com for a response to an inquiry for additional information.

As you know, the legislative process is purposely deliberative as a means of arriving at policy that will serve the common interests of the majority of our citizens. For this reason, it takes all of us working together to reiterate the same message in a variety of ways on many occasions to achieve our goals in bettering the lives of Nebraska’s women, girls and families.

Thank you for getting involved in the legislative process as an informed and active citizen. In Nebraska, We the People are the second house. By speaking with one voice and by working together, we can make a difference in the lives of our members and those of our fellow Nebraskans.