

AAUW-NE 2018 Legislative Priorities  
 Adopted by Board of Directors 1/28/18

Category	Document	Introducer	Status	Description	AAUW-NE Position
<b>GG (Good Government)</b>	LB216  Carryover Bill	Harr	Introduced Jan. 10, 2017. Hearing held on Jan. 20, 2017. Referred to Executive Board and held there	<b>Adopt the Redistricting Act.</b> This bill creates the Independent Redistricting Citizen’s Advisory Commission for the purpose of assisting the Legislature in the process of redistricting in 2021 and thereafter. The proposed commission would develop new district maps for six governmental bodies: the U.S. House, Legislature, Public Service Commission, University of Nebraska Board of Regents, State Board of Education and Nebraska Supreme Court. Lawmakers would retain the final say-so over the districts. LB216 provides a means by which to reduce the incidence of oddly-shaped gerrymandered districts whose lines are drawn in such a way as to isolate citizens of one predominant political parter or another. Iowa successfully uses an independent commission for redistricting that has met favor with the governor and both Democrats and Republicans.	Support
<b>GG</b>	LB290  Carryover Bill	Vargas	Introduced Jan. 11, 2017. Referred to Government, Military and Veterans Committee. Hearing scheduled for March 9, 2017. Held in committee. Vargas filed AM1472 on Jan. 3, 2018	<b>Provide for voter registration upon application for driver’s license, state identification card, or certain benefits.</b> Nebraskans applying for or renewing a driver’s license would be automatically registered to vote under this bill. Currently, people can register to vote through the DMV, but they must opt in to register to vote. LB290 would require people to opt <u>out</u> of registering to vote. Automatic registration to vote would also apply to anyone applying for or renewing applications for public assistance programs through the Nebraska Department of Education and Health and Human Services. Passage of LB290 has the potential to significantly increase the number of Nebraskans who cast ballots on Election Day.	Support

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<b>GG (Good Government)</b>	LB1066	Murante	Introduced Jan. 17, 2018. Wayne motioned to indefinitely postpone pursuant to Rule 6, Section 3(f). Referred to Government, Military and Veterans Affairs (GMVA) Committee on Jan. 19, 2018	<b>Require photographic identification for purposes of voting.</b> Senator Murante introduced three bills relating to voter identification: LB1064, LB1065, and LB1066. LB 1066 would require Nebraskans to provide photo ID in order to vote. The bill requires the secretary of state to provide IDs, with the cost covered by the state. Accepted IDs would include a drivers license, a state-, college- or university-issued ID, a passport, or a military ID. AAUW-NE believes this bill would put costly and unnecessary barriers in the way of people’s right to vote. LB1066 is yet another effort to solve a problem that essentially does not exist in Nebraska: voter fraud.	Oppose

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GG	LR1CA  Carryover Resolution	Murante	Introduced Jan. 5, 2017 and referred to GMVA committee. Hearing scheduled for Mar. 2, 2017. Placed on general file Apr. 21, 2017	<b>Constitutional amendment to require voter identification.</b> At the November 2018 election, Nebraska voters would be asked to approve a constitutional amendment that would require each voter to present identification that contains a photograph or digital image of the voter before they could cast a ballot. This is a constitutional amendment that would require each voter to present identification that contains a photograph or digital image of the voter before they can cast a ballot. The Nebraska constitution declares that elections “shall be free and there shall be no hindrance.” Voter ID does nothing to preserve the relative power of each citizen’s right to vote. Instead, it makes it harder for eligible citizens to vote by creating an unnecessary barrier to exercise the franchise in an effort to “solve a problem” that essentially does not exist: voter fraud. This proposal will cost the state millions of dollars to implement and impose a significant cost on each county to put the amendment on the ballot. It will disenfranchise thousands of low income citizens, college students, people who don’t drive or move frequently, senior citizens, and people with disabilities—all of whom should be able to participate in our elections without charge for an ID. A similar constitutional amendment to require voter ID passed in Missouri as a result of the November 2016 election.	Oppose
GG	LR15CA  Carryover Resolution	Morfeld	Introduced Jan. 18, 2017 and referred to GMVA committee. Notice of hearing for Mar. 16, 2017. Final Status: Held in committee	<b>Constitutional amendment prohibiting requiring a voter to present identification prior to voting.</b> LR15CA seeks to protect the fundamental constitutional rights of each eligible citizen by amending the Nebraska constitution to prohibit a requirement to require identification prior to being able to vote. If passed by the Legislature, LR15CA would appear on the November 2018 general election ballot.	Support

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<b>SEJ (Social &amp; Economic Justice)</b>	LB173  Carryover Bill	Morfeld  *See co-sponsors in description	Introduced Jan. 10, 2017 and referred to Judiciary Committee. Hearing scheduled for Feb. 22, 2017. Final Status: Placed on General file March 1, 2017. Bolz priority bill on March 9, 2017.	<b>Prohibit discrimination based upon sexual orientation and gender identity.</b> LB173 would ban job discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in Nebraska. Senator Morfeld introduced a similar measure in 2015 with the backing of several business leaders, but it was killed by opponents. They argued the measure was unnecessary and could interfere with the religious rights of employers. Morfeld continues to bring the measure back because he believes it is the right thing to do.  *Co-Sponsors: Crawford, Hansen, Howard, Kolowski, McCollister, Pansing Brooks, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Wishart	Support
<b>SEJ</b>	LB211  Carryover Bill	Hansen  *See co-sponsors in description	Introduced Jan. 10, 2017 and referred to Business and Labor Committee. Notice of hearing for Feb. 27 2017. Placed on General File on Mar. 15, 2017. Hansen AM1604 filed on Jan. 23, 2018. Pansing Brooks name added on Jan. 26, 2018	<b>Change the minimum wage for persons compensated by way of gratuities.</b> LB211 would increase the minimum wage for waiters, waitresses, and others who receive tips in two steps. The first increase would push the wage up from the current \$2.13 per hour to \$3.60, or 40% of the minimum wage for all other jobs by January 1, 2019. the second step would push it to \$4.50 hourly, or 50% of the general minimum wage in Nebraska to \$9 an hour. LB211 would make wages for our citizens working in the service industry more comparable to their colleagues who are earning the minimum wage.  *Co-Sponsors: Blood, Howard, Kolowski, Morfeld, Quick, Vargas	Support
<b>SEJ</b>	LB843	Pansing Brooks  *See co-sponsors in description	Introduced Jan. 4, 2018 and referred to Business and Labor Committee. Notice of hearing for Feb. 12, 2018	<b>Provide protections for employees' wage disclosures.</b> LB843 would provide protections for employees regarding wage disclosure as related to the Nebraska Wage Payment and Collection Act.  *Co-Sponsors: Blood, Crawford, Howard, Walz, Wishart.	Support

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SEJ	LB844	Crawford  *See co-sponsors in description	Introduced on Jan. 4, 2018 and referred to the Business and Labor Committee. Hearing scheduled for Feb. 12, 2018	<b>Adopt the Healthy and Safe Families and Workplaces Act.</b> The bill defines what paid and safe time (compensation and accruals) means for employers and employees and explains what employees can expect and the responsibilities employers have in providing these conditions.  *Co-Sponsors: Ebke, Hansen, Howard, Pansing Brooks, Quick, Walz	Support
HC/HI (Health Care/Health Insurance)	LB120  Carryover Bill	Schumacher	Introduced Jan. 2, 2017. Referred to Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee. Hearing was scheduled for March 15, 2017. Final Status: Held in committee	<b>Provide for Medical Assistance Act coverage for family planning services as prescribed.</b> LB120 would require a state plan amendment be submitted to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for the purpose of providing medical assistance for family planning services for persons whose family's earned income is at or below 185% of the federal poverty level as permitted under the federal Social Security Act.	Support
HC/HI	LB305  Carryover Bill	Crawford	Introduced Jan. 12, 2017. Referred to Business and Labor Committee and hearing was scheduled for Jan. 27, 2017	<b>Adopt the Paid Family Medical Leave Insurance Act.</b> LB305 would provide paid family and medical leave for the Nebraska employees who are currently covered by unemployment insurance. Qualifying employees would be required to pay into the program at a cost of less than \$2 per week. The program would provide workers with about 2/3 of their regular pay for up to 12 weeks of leave and for their own health or the birth or adoption of a child and up to six weeks of leave for the care of a family member. The Nebraska Department of Labor would administer the program using the existing unemployment benefits system. The program would start in 2020.	Support

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HC/HI	LB441  Carryover Bill	Morfeld	Introduced Jan. 17, 2017 and referred to HHS Committee. Notice of hearing for Mar. 8, 2017. Vargas name added on Mar. 30, 2017. Hansen name added Apr. 26, 2017. Final Status: Held in committee	<b>Change eligibility provisions under the Medical Assistance Act.</b> LB441 would expand Medicaid coverage to about 90,000 more Nebraskans that would include single adults and couples without minor children, as well as to parents and disabled people with incomes up to 133% of the federal poverty level. Current law provides at least 90% federal funding for the expanded coverage, higher than the typical federal share for Medicaid. Regardless of the Trump administration's focus on repealing the Affordable Care Act and replacing it with an as-yet-to-be-determined plan, Senator Morfeld believes the repeal will not take effect for a few years. He believes having a Medicaid expansion plan now would put our state in a good position to take full advantage of the promised replacement plan.	Support
PE (Public Education)	LB295  Carryover Bill	Smith	Introduced Jan. 11, 2017 and referred to Revenue Committee. Linehan name added Jan. 24, 2017. Placed on general file with AM1418 on May 23, 2017. Brewer name added Jan. 3, 2018	<b>Adopt the Opportunity Scholarships Act and provide tax credits.</b> LB295 creates the Opportunity Scholarship Act which allows for individual and corporate taxpayers to qualify for a non-refundable tax credit equal to the amount the taxpayer contributed to a scholarship-granting organization. This creates tax diversions to benefit private schools. For calendar year 2018, the total amount of credits granted shall not exceed ten million dollars. The annual limit will increase incrementally each year thereafter.	Oppose

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PE	LB804	Brasch	Introduced Jan. 4, 2018 and referred to Revenue Committee. Notice of hearing for January 26, 2018	<b>Include elementary and secondary schools in the Nebraska educational savings plan trust and change tax benefits.</b> LB804 would allow up to a \$10,000 tax deduction per year per tax filer for tuition at a K-12 private school. This would cost Nebraska millions in state revenue and hurt the funding of our public schools. There is no indication that LB804 would entice additional enrollment to private schools as supporters claim. AAUW-NE supports public education and opposes efforts to divert public tax dollars to support private schools. Nebraska currently ranks 49th in state funding for K-12 public education on a per pupil basis. Passage of this bill would only make that ranking worse.	Oppose
PE	LB876	Kolowski	Introduced Jan. 8, 2018 and referred to Education Committee. Notice of hearing for Jan. 30, 2018	<b>Change special education reimbursements.</b> This bill would require General Funds to be appropriated for not less than 80% of the total excess allowable costs for special education and support services in school districts. The estimated current rate of appropriation is 48%. Its passage would provide direct property tax relief.	Support