

Final Report: AAUW-NE 2018 Legislative Priorities
By Sapphire Andersen, AAUW-NE Public Policy Chair
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AAUW-NE prioritized fifteen pieces of proposed legislation introduced during the 2018 session of the Unicameral. From time to time during the session, members were asked to contact their state senators to urge them to support the AAUW-NE position on specific priorities. Thank you to everyone who took time to respond to an “Action Alert”. A detailed description of each of the priorities appears on our state website at aauw-ne.aauw.net.

In summary:

- Eleven of the priorities were held in committee meaning no further action was taken on them during the 2018 session. We were in support of nine of these priorities including LB216, LB290, LR15CA, LB843, LB844, LB120, LB305, LB441 and LB876. We opposed two of the eleven priorities held in committee—LB1066 and LB804. When the second session of the Unicameral adjourned sine die on April 18, 2018, these eleven priorities were all Indefinitely Postponed (IPP) meaning these bills or resolutions have been killed. When the Legislature adjourns sine die, the legislative session is finished for the year, and no future date is set for reconvening.
- LR1CA (O), LB173 (S), LB211 (S), and LB295 (O) were all placed on General File during the first session of the Unicameral in the spring of 2017. LR1CA and LB295 were named a priority resolution/bill by senators during February 2018. Even though placed on General File with two named as senator priorities, the four above-mentioned priorities have also been Indefinitely Postponed.

Indefinite Postponement means that our 2018 AAUW-NE legislative priorities (bills and resolutions) cannot be considered again in the same status they had at the end of the 2018 session. We consider this a victory for the four bills/resolutions that we opposed. These included voter ID legislation (LB1066, LR1CA) and voucher schemes (LB295, LB804) benefitting private and charter schools. Should similar legislation be introduced in the 2019 legislative session, we will continue to fight any such bills or resolutions. Although eleven bills and resolutions that we prioritized were held in committee and also Indefinitely Postponed (IPP), we will continue to monitor legislation introduced in 2019 to advance AAUW’s mission.

Thank you for your interest in AAUW-NE’s legislative priorities this year, and a special thank you goes to those of you who responded to “Action Alerts” and took the time to get in touch with senators at critical times in the legislative process. With the support of AAUW members across the state who contact their representatives through letters, emails, calls, and personal visits (including AAUW Nebraska Legislative Day), we continue to advance the cause for women, girls, and families in Nebraska.