

AAUW-NE 2019 Legislative Priorities
 Adopted by Board of Directors 1/30/19

Category	Document	Introducer	Status	Description	AAUW-NE Position
GG (Good Government)	L83	Senator Justin Wayne	Introduced January 10, 2019. Referred to Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. Senator Hunt and Chambers cosponsored.	Provide for restoration of voting rights upon completion of a felony sentence or probation for a felony. Senator Wayne offered this bill in 2017. The previous bill passed but was vetoed by Governor Pete Ricketts. LB83 aligns with AAUW’s public policy priority to guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society, through vigorous enforcement of and full access to civil and constitutional rights, including affirmative action and expanding voting rights.	Support
GG (Good Government)	LB253	Senator John McCollister	Introduced January 14, 2019. Referred to Executive Board. Notice of hearing for February 14, 2019.	Adopt the Redistricting Act. LB253 is very similar to a bill AAUW-NE supported in the 2018 Unicameral. It creates the Independent Redistricting Citizen’s Advisory Commission for the purpose of assisting the Legislature in the process of redistricting in 2021 and thereafter. LB253 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 political party or another. Iowa successfully uses an independent commission for redistricting that has met favor with the governor and both Democrats and Republicans. LB253 aligns with AAUW’s public policy priority to guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society, through vigorous enforcement of and full access to civil and constitutional rights.	Support

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SEJ (Social and Economic Justice)	LB217	Senator Patty Pansing Brooks	Introduced January 11, 2019. Referred to Business and Labor Committee. Notice of hearing for February 11, 2019.	Prohibit retaliation against employees for communicating about wages. LB217 is similar to a bill AAUW-NE supported in the 2018 Unicameral session. The bill relates to the Nebraska Wage Payment and Collection Act just as last year’s bill was. LB217 prohibits employers from retaliating against employees who are communicating about wages for the purpose of determining whether the employer is compensating any employee in a manner that provides equal pay for equal work. LB217 aligns with AAUW’s public policy priority to achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women.	Support
SEJ (Social and Economic Justice)	LB305	Senators Sue Crawford, Machaela Cavanaugh, and Dan Quick	Introduced January 15, 2019. Referred to Business and Labor Committee. Notice of hearing for February 4, 2019.	Adopt the Healthy and Safe Families and Workplaces Act. Senator Crawford introduced a similar bill in 2018, and AAUW-NE supported it. The bill defines what paid sick 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. Employees could earn a minimum of one hour of paid sick and safe time for every 30 hours worked. The bill was sponsored as a means to attract and retain workers. LB315 aligns with AAUW’s public policy priority to advocate for greater availability of and access to a high standard of benefits and policies that promote work-life balance.	Support

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SEJ (Social and Economic Justice)	LB311	Senator Sue Crawford and 12 Cosponsors	Introduced January 15, 2019. Referred to Business and Labor Committee. Senator Hilkemann's name withdrawn as a cosponsor. Notice of hearing for February 4, 2019.	Adopt the Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Act. Senator Crawford introduced a similar bill in 2018, and AAUW-NE supported it. LB311 would provide workers who qualify for unemployment insurance partial reimbursement for lost wages from the state to care for others or themselves. It would allow six weeks to care for a family member and up to twelve weeks after the birth of a new child or for one's own serious health problems. It has special provisions for family members in the military. The bill was promoted as a means to attract and retain workers. The program would start in 2021. LB311 aligns with AAUW's public policy priority to increase access to quality, affordable health care and helps to advocate for greater availability of and access to a high standard of benefits... including quality and affordable dependent care.	Support
HC/HI (Health Care/Health Insurance)	LB43	Senator Kate Bolz	Introduced January 10, 2019. Referred to Judiciary Committee. Senator Hunt cosponsored. Notice of hearing set for February 22, 2019.	Adopt the Sexual Assault Survivors' Bill of Rights Act. LB43 provides a comprehensive list of the rights of victims of sexual assault. A thorough description of what a sexual assault victim can expect from health care providers, government agencies and law enforcement once a sexual assault has been reported is provided. LB43 aligns with AAUW's public policy priority to guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for women by advocating for freedom from violence and fear of violence.	Support

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Public Education	LB314	Senator Tom Briese	Introduced January 16, 2019. Referred to Revenue Committee. Senators Halloran, Pansing Brooks and Brandt cosponsored. Notice of hearing set for February 14, 2019.	Adopt the Remote Seller Tax Collection Act and change revenue and taxation provisions. This bill would provide property tax relief by shifting the load onto sales and income taxes. The plan includes a ½ cent state sales tax increase and a surcharge on high-income earners (\$250,000 for an individual, \$500,000 for a couple). New this year is the elimination of itemized income tax deductions and steep increases in taxes on beer, wine and spirits. Briese believes newly elected senators and farmers reeling from high property taxes will support LB314. A similar bill last year was filibustered to death. Governor Ricketts opposes any tax increases or tax shifts and is likely to oppose it. Senator Briese maintains his bill is revenue neutral and not a tax hike. He estimates it will generate almost \$800 million for property tax relief and increased state aid to public schools. Nebraska continues to rank 48th among the 50 states in the amount of state aid it provides to public schools. This low ranking forces schools into a perennial overreliance on local property taxes to fund schools. LB 314 aligns with AAUW’s public policy priority to support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity by providing adequate and equitable funding for quality public education for all students.	Support