

AAUW-NE 2020 Legislative Priorities Adopted by the AAUW-NE Board of Directors, February 2, 2020

Category	Document	Introducer	Status	Description	AAUW-NE Position
GG (Good Government)	LB253	Senator John McCollister	Introduced January 14, 2019. Referred to Executive Board. Notice of hearing for February 14, 2019. *Carryover bill* Indefinitely Postponed, August 13, 2020	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
GG (Good Government)	LR292CA	Senator Andrew La Grone	Introduced January 10, 2020. Referred to Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. Senator Hilkemann’s name added a co-sponsor on January 13, 2020. Indefinitely Postponed, August 13, 2020	Constitutional amendment to require verification of identity prior to voting. In past years, AAUW-NE has strongly opposed voter identification efforts. LR292CA would require Nebraskans to provide photo ID in order to vote. The bill states that the Legislature would be responsible for providing specifications for the manner of reviewing a photograph or digital image at the polls. AAUW-NE believes this bill would put costly and unnecessary barriers in the way of people’s right to vote. LR292CA is yet another effort to solve a problem that essentially does not exist in Nebraska: voter fraud.	Oppose

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SEJ (Social and Economic Justice)	LB305	Senators Sue Crawford, Machaela Cavanaugh and Dan Quick	<p>Introduced January 15, 2019. Referred to Business and Labor Committee. Notice of hearing for February 4, 2019. Business and Labor Committee filed AM592. Placed on General File with AM592 on March 7, 2019. Chair ruled that there had not been a full and fair debate on M592 on January 16, 2020. Senator B. Hansen filed FA91 on January 21, 2020. The bill died in the legislature on January 21, 2020.</p> <p>*Carryover bill* Indefinitely Postponed, August 13, 2020</p>	<p>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. LB305 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.</p>	Support
SEJ (Social and Economic Justice)	LB311 Priority Bill for Senator Cavanaugh	Senator Sue Crawford and 12 Cosponsors	<p>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. Business and Labor Committee filed AM570. Placed on General File with AM570 on March 7, 2019. Senator Cavanaugh priority bill on March 12, 2019. Motion to recommit to committee filed and withdrawn by Senator Chambers on March 19, 2019. Senator Slama FA24 pending March 20, 2019.</p> <p>*Carryover bill* Indefinitely Postponed, August 13, 2020</p>	<p>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.</p>	Support

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HC/HI (Health Care/Health Insurance)	LB43	Senator Kate Bolz	<p>Introduced January 10, 2019. Referred to Judiciary Committee. Senator Hunt cosponsored. on January 15, 2019. Notice of hearing set for February 22, 2019.</p> <p>*Carryover bill* Passed on Final Reading by a vote of 43-0-6, July 31, 2020 Approved by Governor, August 6, 2020</p>	<p>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.</p>	Support
HC/HI (Health Care/Health Insurance)	LB932	Senator Anna Wishart	<p>Introduced January 10, 2020. Referred to Health and Human Services Committee.</p> <p>Indefinitely Postponed, August 13, 2020</p>	<p>Require expansion of the medical assistance program as prescribed. LB932 would require Department Health and Human Services to implement Medicaid expansion on or before October 1, 2020. This is the date by which DHHS has stated it plans to expand Medicaid, so a bill requiring the start on October 1 provides budgetary certainty and ensures that the program is indeed implemented by that date. This aligns with AAUW's public policy priority to advocate for universal access to quality, affordable health care. This also makes DHHS accountable to Nebraskans who voted for Medicaid expansion in 2018.</p>	Support

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Public Education	LB314	Senator Tom Briese	<p>Introduced January 16, 2019. Referred to Revenue Committee. Senators Halloran, Pansing Brooks and Brandt cosponsored. Notice of hearing set for February 14, 2019.</p> <p>Indefinitely Postponed, August 13, 2020</p>	<p>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 over-reliance 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.</p>	Support

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Public Education	LB974	Senator Lou Ann Linehan	<p>Introduced January 13, 2020. Referred to the Revenue Committee on January, 14, 2020. Notice of hearing set for January 22, 2020.</p> <p>Indefinitely Postponed, August 13, 2020</p>	<p>Change taxation and school funding provisions. This bill would make permanent changes to the school funding formula using a projected one-time surplus in state revenue to pay for a tax reduction. LB974 would cap local school district bond levies, but replaces only 90% of the funding for 2021 and 85% of the funding thereafter. In the long term, this plan will end up hurting public schools. The bill would mean significant budget cuts for public education in the near future. LB974 would also limit local control by making it difficult for school officials to plan for the future and to provide a quality education to all students. The goal for state lawmakers must be to provide property tax relief without sacrificing public education. LB974 aligns with AAUW’s public policy priority to support a strong system of public education through adequate funding for quality public education for all students.</p>	Oppose