

Talking Points for Lobby Day Bills

1/16/2024, Update 1/24/2024 with resources

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#1 One Minute Pitch – Students at risk

#AAUW-WA supports SB 5850 Supporting students who are chronically absent and at risk for not graduating high school, sponsored by Senators Braun, Randall and Wellman among others. There is a companion bill in the House HB 2146 sponsored by Rep. Rule and Connors.

Absenteeism directly affects students' success at school and has many causes. This bill provides funds for OSPI and education personnel to provide support for students at risk of chronic absenteeism. For girls absenteeism can be related to their menstrual cycle or other reproductive health issues, including pregnancy, or the need to fill in as caregivers for younger siblings or aging or ailing family members. For all students, there may be a lack of safe transportation, food insecurity, or housing insecurity. Sexual harassment, bully, and intimidation can also be a factor. We heard testimony from two high school students on Jan 11th that described some of the barriers even "strongly motivated to succeed" girls face in WA state, especially in rural and marginalized communities. *They need our help.*

This bill builds on successful pilot programs and should be passed and all components well-funded.

The ASK: Can we count on you to support our most vulnerable students to graduate and make passage of SB 5850 a priority?

Update: The Senate bill passed without amendment to Ways and Means with the majority party "do pass" and the minority party "without recommendation". 1/24/2024

Related bill: Ninth-grade success grants. HB 2053 Establishing the ninth-grade success grant program. sponsored by Rep. Stonier. This bill builds on a successful pilot program that identifies 9th grade students at risk for not graduating to provide additional support. AAUW supports this bill and funding for 9th grade success programs. **Update.** This bill is in Appropriations. 1/24

Resource: See AAUW-WA Lobby Day presentation to learn more about "at risk" girls*.

#2. One Minute Pitch - School information technology, school libraries, teacher-librarians, and public libraries

AAUW-Washington supports school libraries and teacher-librarians as well as community public librarians and community librarians as critical educational resources.

ES SB 5102 requires schools to offer school library information and technology (LIT) programs to all students; it is sponsored by Senators Wellman, Liias, Wilson and Trudeau among others.. This bill was introduced and amended during the 2023 legislative session to address stakeholder concerns. We would like to see it move forward in 2024 along with HB 1609 that provides grants to increase certified teacher-librarians in WA state. We have deep concerns about closures of public libraries and also support SB 5824 that would require a higher percentage of petitioners to initiate a dissolution process. We are disappointed that the standards for media literacy bill is not moving forward, SB 5626, but pleased to see

some funding was provided in the 2023-2025 budget.

The ASK: Can we count on you to support school libraries, teacher-librarians and public libraries?

Update: SB5102, HB1609 and SB 5626 are not moving; SB5824 is in Senate Rules, as of 1/24.

Q about change from 10% to 35%. 35% is used for local elected officials like the school board whereas 25% is used for state officials. RCW 29A.56.180, 25% for dissolution of Conservative district (after 5 years) RCW 89.08.350.

#3. One Minute Pitch - supporting indigenous communities

AAUW-Washington supports HB 1332 Supporting public school instruction in tribal sovereignty and federally recognized Indian tribes (c sponsored by Representative Lekanoff.

Background: In 2015 the state legislature supported the creation of curriculum materials about the history, culture, and government of federally recognized tribe or tribes, nearest to each school district, for inclusion in their social studies curriculum. But it did not put a date on implementation. This bill sets September 1, 2026, for school districts to consult with the tribes about meeting the requirement and requires they use the Since Time Immemorial curriculum adopted by OSPI with support of all tribes. The bill also provides grants to facilitate the process and initiates an annual monitoring and evaluation with compliance.

AAUW members who have moved here from other states report that they were taught about indigenous culture and history with lessons that were incorporated into lesson plans. Support for this bill demonstrates commitment to the land acknowledgements of every branch and AAUW-WA

The ASK: Can we count on you to support indigenous students and people by passing this bill to ensure tribal history and sovereignty curriculum is incorporated into social studies curricula by all school districts by September 1, 2026?

Update. HB1332 is in the House Rules committee 1/24.

Related indigenous bills:

HB 1228 Dual & tribal language edu. Ortiz-Self (partially funded in 2023)Public hearing on 1/22/

HB 1399 Native American scholarships (funded in budget thru 2025) Not moving as of 1/24.

Artificial Intelligence

#4. One Minute Pitch – Addressing evolving use of AI in schools, workplace and everyday life

AAUW-Washington supports SB 5838 Establishing an artificial intelligence task force sponsored by Senator Nguyen and requested by the Attorney General. There is a companion bill HB 1934 sponsored by Rep. Couture.

This is an important and timely bill that should be passed immediately. Washington should take a leadership role without delay and the task force is a critical step in that direction.

The ASK: Can we count on you to support this well planned and inclusive AI task force? Please vote to pass SB 5838.

Update: Senate bill amended (address # of task force members, reports - in Ways and Means.

Related AI bills:

HB 1951 Develop regulations and educational initiatives that promote ethical artificial intelligence that protects against algorithmic discriminations Shavers, Ryu, Ramel.By Request: Attorney General) Public hearing. 1/19

SB 5838 Establishing an artificial intelligence task force. bipartisan Sponsors: (Nguyen) Companion
HB1934 (Couture, Slatter,) Amended and in Ways and Means 1/24
SB 5957 Requiring the office of privacy and data protection to develop guidelines for the use of artificial intelligence. (Boehnke, Dhingra, Dozier, Hasegawa, Liias, Short, Warnick) Not moving.
Resources: OSPI webpage on AI

Economic Security

#5. One Minute Pitch – flexible work is a gender equity goal

AAUW-Washington supports SB 5424 Concerning flexible work for general and limited authority Washington peace officers, sponsored by Sen Lovick and introduced in 2023. There is a companion bill in the House, HB 1413, sponsored by Rep. Shavers. **Update:** This bill passed the Senate and is now in the House. 1/24/2024.

This is a great example of a bill that supports women in the workforce. This bill helps support the gender equity goal of the 30x30 Initiative to Advance Women in Policing. Currently, women make up only 12% of sworn officers and 3% of police leadership in the U.S. The goal is to increase the percentage to 30% by 2030.

Flexible work can increase diversity; this bill has been well reviewed and amended to address concerns. It considers guardrails, rehire of retirees, and collective bargaining issues. Flexible work schedules are part of the modern world and support work/life balance and families.

The ASK: Can we count on you to support police officers who may prefer to work flexible work hours during certain phases of their career? **Update:** Thank your senator, the bill passed unanimously.

Related bills

HB 2024 Concerning flexible work policies for law enforcement officers and participation in the law enforcement officers' and firefighters' retirement system plan 2.

#6. One Minute Pitch – recognizing the changing dynamics of family and the need to care for each other

AAUW-Washington supports SB 5793 Concerning paid sick leave that expands the definition of family and includes recognition of uncontrolled critical life events such as certain workplace, school and child care closures. This bill is sponsored by Senator Saldaña. There is a companion bill in the House, HB 1991 sponsored by Rep. Fosse. This bill aligns definitions of family with the Paid Family Medical Leave program policy. **Update:** The Senate bill was amended to remove the school closure/childcare section, it passed the committee on a partisan vote. AAUW supports the amended bill.

The ASK: Can we count on you to support working families in Washington?

Resource: To learn more about how paid sick leave differs from paid family medical leave see WA DOL webpage.

#7. One Minute Pitch – Keep our healthcare please.

AAUW-Washington supports SB 5241 Keep Our Care Act (ensure consolidations of healthcare systems, such as hospitals, improve rather than harm access to affordable, quality care), sponsored by Senator Randall, introduced during the 2023 session. There is a companion bill in the House, HB 1263 sponsored by Rep. Simmons. In Washington state we continue to experience the long-term impact of companies consolidating our precious health care resources and infrastructure with little regard to public health and affordable accessible care..or women' right to full reproductive care.

The ASK: Can we count on you to support the Keep Our Care Act?

#8. One Minute Pitch – Reproductive freedom

Washington state has some of the better reproductive rights protections in our country and we thank legislators for passing these much needed laws. We ask you, as our representative, to ensure that these reproductive rights cannot be easily dismantled. AAUW-Washington supports SJR 8202 and HJR 4201 a joint resolution to Amend the Washington state Constitution to protect reproductive freedom, requested by the Governor and sponsored by Senator Keiser and in the HOuse by Rep. Gregerson.

The ASK: Can we count on you to support reproductive rights in WA state?

YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

If your senator or representative co-sponsored a bill on our list, please thank them.

If they did not – no problem, ask them to put it on their priority list.

The easiest way to see if your legislator sponsored one of our Lobby Day bills is to go to AAUW-WA BillTrack50 Lobby Day 2024 Scorecard. Click on their name and the list of sponsored bills will be at the bottom of the voting score sheet.

The easiest way to send your legislator a message about a bill is to go to the bill page (use the links provided in the Talking Points). On the bill page, use the "Email your legislators" button to send a message of support directly to your Senator and Representatives. It is helpful to do this even if you will meet with them during Lobby week as their LA tracks and reports this data.

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