

Equal Pay Rally



Our rally in Harrisburg was a great success. We had speakers from our co-sponsoring organizations, the Pennsylvania Commission for Women, Moms Rising, BPW-PA, and the Women's Law Project. Two state senators, Judith Schwank and Steve Santarsiero spoke as well as Representatives Donna Bullock, Maria Donatucci, Tarah Toohill, Chris Rabb, Tina Davis and Brian Sims.

Comments from legislators and their aides were very positive. From Abby Rambo, Rep. Sims Chief of Staff:

“Thank you for your efforts leading up to Equal Pay Day, organizing the rally and leading the events on April 8th. It was a success and hopefully gave us the momentum we need this year. Thank you so much for your leadership in contacting other legislators AND getting the companion bill in the senate. So glad that we (Brian and I) have such strong advocates in our corner.”

From Rep. Donna Bullock

“Thank you to you and all of the AAUW-PA members. Together we will continue to fight for equal pay... but our efforts alone won't get us across the finish line. My colleagues

in the House and Senate need to bring these bills up for vote in committee and then on the floors of the General Assembly!

Till then we must get louder. We must elect more women and men who agree with our agenda. We must continue to put the issue front and center. And you can count on me to always be there.”

To see and hear all the speakers check out [Equal Pay Rally](#).



AAUW-PA also greatly appreciates the time the First Lady, Francis Wolf spent with us during the briefing to prepare for visits with legislators. She is committed to continuing her equal pay roundtables started last year.

If you haven't visited your legislator about pay equity, there is still time this month and the beginning of May before they become heavily involved in budget negotiations. Be sure to let us know how your visit went by completing the on line [Lobby Report](#). Thank you to the Carlisle and Lower Bucks Branches for completing the form about their visits.

Want to contact your legislator directly? Send them an email. Here is a link to

[Contact Your Legislator](#). Scroll to your representative's name and click on the envelop. A form will come up for you to fill out and send. The link for state senators does not bring up a form, but gives you their email address. [Contact Your Senator](#). Great way to follow up on visits or to provide additional material.

AAUW-PA Cited in Washington Update State Spotlight

AAUW of Pennsylvania played an integral role in the bipartisan passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act. State Public Policy Chair Barbara Price, along with members of the AAUW Lower Bucks Branch, utilized a number of advocacy best practices to urge Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.) to vote yes. They scheduled an in-district meeting with Congressional staff, where they were able to share AAUW research and establish their state affiliate as a resource. The branch then participated in an annual event with a coalition of local women's organizations that is a conversation with elected officials. When Rep. Fitzpatrick arrived early, Barbara took the opportunity to speak with him. She knew he placed value on research and background information, and provided him with some statistics on the spot. Later that day, she followed up with his staff to provide the bill number as the representative had requested. We were so excited to see Rep. Fitzpatrick vote yes on Wednesday, and applaud AAUW of Pennsylvania for their part in making it happen!

Work Smart

While we wait for equal pay to pass in Pennsylvania, women can still make progress by taking AAUW's free on line salary negotiation workshop. Great to see Representative Sims Tweet about Work Smart, and Representative Tina Davis plug for it when she was interviewed after the Equal Pay Rally. These are truly dedicated public servants.



Things you can do in one hour

- Watch your favorite show
- Go to the gym
- Learn to negotiate your salary

Take AAUW's free online salary negotiation training to get the salary you deserve! Register now at salary.aauw.org.

WORK SMART

Keystone Research Center Develops Factsheets for a Minimum Wage Increase to \$15

Pennsylvania's minimum wage remains at \$7.25 per hour, lower than all our neighboring states. The Keystone Research Center has posted fact sheets that estimate the number of workers affected and the characteristics of the workers affected by a minimum wage increase to \$15 by 2024. The factsheets present, when possible, data specific to [Counties](#) and to [Senate and state House Districts](#). These fact sheets refute the usual arguments that only teenagers at fast food restaurants make minimum wage. In fact, the majority of people who would be affected by the increase are women and people over the age of 40. Look up your county and your legislator. Raising the minimum wage would go a long way toward alleviating the wage gap.

Redistricting

April has been good for redistricting reform bills. Senate Bill 22 was introduced on April 3 and voted out of committee just a week later, on the same day. House Bills 22 and 23, the [Two Bills/One Commission strategy](#), were officially introduced with strong bipartisan support (68 cosponsors for HB 22; 85 co-sponsors for HB 23).

While Fair Districts does not support SB 22 as is, Majority and Minority Committee Chairs Senators Folmer and Williams and SB 22 prime sponsor Senator Boscola have committed to working to amend it when it comes to a vote on the Senate floor. In the House, House State Government Committee Chair Garth Everett has expressed openness to considering redistricting bills, so in both houses, we have encouraging momentum.

There's lots going on across the state in the weeks ahead. To find out what may be happening in your area go to the link <https://www.fairdistrictspa.com/events>.

GoTV – Get out the Vote

This year's election is one that is considered an off-year election. We will elect Pennsylvania judges and the local offices of county commissioner, borough supervisor and school board. It is not easy to get people to the polls, even though those elected will have a much bigger impact on the average person's life than those running for national office. These candidates decide on taxes and other issues that can directly affect the local economy. If your branch is planning voter registration activities, please consider using the attached graphic Your Vote Your Voice to help people understand the importance of voting this year. The last day to register for the May 21 primary is April 22.

You might also consider sponsoring a candidate debate. This can shed light on the issues facing your community and bring visibility to your branch. After listening to candidates, you may even consider running for office yourself. This will take some careful thought and planning. Many people start by running for school board. While it is too late to run this year, you may want to review the guide on the Pennsylvania School Board Association web site [How to Run for School Board](#).

Be sure to let us know about your branch public policy activities and events

Send event details (name and type of event, date held, outcomes) to

Kim aaupapp2@gmail.com and

Barbara aaupapp1@gmail.com

As always we are here to answer your questions and only an email away.



HELP AAUW CLOSE THE GAP
AT FIGHTFORFAIRPAY.ORG.

