



AAUW – Kentucky Policy Statement on Proposed Legislation in the Kentucky General Assembly: Education

February 17, 2025

SUPPORT: HB 268 – Amend KRS 158.196 to require social studies instruction, materials, and academic standards to include the roles and contributions of indigenous peoples, people of color, and people from other marginalized or non-European groups, as well as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people in the history of the United States and the Commonwealth.

OPPOSE: HB 197 – Amend KRS 164.020 to abolish the Council on Postsecondary Education and transfer authorities and duties to the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority; amend KRS 164.746 to add three student members to the board of the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority

SUPPORT: HB 300 & HB 460 -- Amend KRS 157.3175 to require school districts provide a full-day preschool education program for eligible three and four-year-olds; establish eligibility for the program; require that preschool for three year old children continue to be funded through a grant process and preschool programs for four-year-old children be funded under KRS 157.310 to 157.440

The American Association of University Women's (AAUW) mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. Since 1881, AAUW has supported a strong public education system that promotes gender fairness, equity, diversity, and inclusivity and addresses the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women and girls, which ultimately hinder the advancement of everyone.

AAUW advocates for:

- A strong system of **public education** that promotes gender fairness, equity, diversity, and inclusivity, and to address the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women and girls,
- Strengthening and vigorous **enforcement of Title IX** and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education
- Adequate and equitable **funding for and access to quality public education**, including early childhood education, for all students
- Increased support for and protection of **programs that meet the needs of girls and women in elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education**, including strong promotion of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education, and comprehensive sexual health education
- Increased support for and access to **affordable higher education** for women, including alleviating the debt burden that disproportionately impacts borrowers of color and exacerbates the racial wealth gap
- Programs that provide women with education, training, and support for **success in the workforce**, including nontraditional occupations and women's entrepreneurship

Prepared by AAUW Kentucky – Public Policy Committee

For more information about AAUW of Kentucky, visit our website, <https://aauw-ky.aauw.net/>,
and follow us on Facebook, <https://bit.ly/FB-AAUW-KY>.

AAUW fights to remove the barriers and biases that stand in the way of gender equity. We train women to negotiate for pay and benefits and to pursue leadership roles. And we advocate for federal, state and local laws and policies to ensure equity and end discrimination.
