



Public Policy Report

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Summary:

AAUW Maryland finalized legislative priorities in November 2019. We adopted the MLAW agenda and participated on the board and voting process. AAUW members served in leadership for MLAW and WLB and participated in several coalition activities. Additionally, AAUW decided to prioritize legislation to ban salary history as a top priority and organized an advocacy day in Annapolis to promote the bill. Six of the nine priority bills passed.

Coalition Activities:

AAUW MD continued to serve on the board of directors for MLAW. Erin Prangley attended monthly meetings to organize the MLAW conference and briefing. AAUW MD sponsored both events and several branches and individual members participated in events.

AAUW MD sponsored the Women's Legislative Briefing 40th Anniversary Briefing on January 26, 2020. AAUW MD's event sponsorship included tabling opportunity, seat on the planning committee, and invitation to "President's Breakfast." Anita Rosen served on the Planning Committee. Kate Campbell Stevenson represented at the Presidents' breakfast. Gloria Blackwell, AAUW Senior Vice President of Fellowships & Programs spoke on a panel about Women in Leadership. AAUW MD had a booth and several members participated in the event.

AAUW MD sponsored the 2020 Women's Rally in Annapolis. This annual rally highlights legislation that promotes healthy families, reproductive justice, economic security, the rights of systems-involved women and girls, and prevention of gender violence and discrimination. Kate Campbell Stevenson spoke about the need to pass legislation to prohibit requiring salary history in job applications. Kate's speech was live-streamed on AAUW MD Facebook page.

AAUW MD organized a legislative advocacy day in Annapolis to educate state lawmakers on the urgency to pass legislation to ban salary history consideration in employment. AAUW Members came from all over the state representing Anne Arundel, Easton, Fredrick, Kensington-Rockville, Howard, and Baltimore branches.

Legislative Success:

Six of the nine AAUW MD's legislative priorities passed the MGA this session!

Years of AAUW MD advocacy contributed to passage of the salary history ban. The legislative sponsor (and AAUW member) Sen. Susan Lee never gave up! She had introduced the bill in several past legislative sessions. AAUW advocacy on this bill spanned several sessions including written and oral testimony in previous years to gain support for the legislation by Kate Campbell Stevenson, Erin Prangley, Anita Rosin. We relied heavily on AAUW national research (The Simple Truth about the Pay Gap) and policy staff support.

This session, we worked closely with Sen. Lee and Del. Karen Young to strategize the best legislators to meet with during AAUW MD 2020 Advocacy Day. AAUW MD members Barbara Carter, Roxann King, Sally Morris, Patricia C Crane, Rebecca

Dreisbach, S. Monique Smith-Person, Bonnie Nicholson and Erin Prangley, participated in the advocacy day making dozens of meetings with House and Senate lawmakers. Additionally, hundreds of AAUW MD members sent emails in support of this session's legislation. The legislation passed the general assembly and was signed into law by Governor Hogan.

In addition to passing the salary history ban legislation, AAUW MD contributed to the success of the following new laws:

- HB 4/SB 208: Requires a background check when buying a long gun from any private sales and permanent gifts of such guns. The buyer and seller must use a licensed dealer and pay \$30 background check fee. (Sen. Susan Lee/Del. Vanessa Atterbeary)
- HB 233/SB 212: Makes strangulation, a serious and potentially deadly physical assault often seen in domestic violence cases, a first degree felony assault under Maryland law. (Sen. Susan Lee/Del. Jesse Pippy/Del. Vanessa Atterbeary)
- HB 248/SB 210: This law clarifies "date rape" victims are eligible for a protective order against their assailant. (Sen. Jeff Waldstreicher/Del. Vanessa Atterbeary)
- HB 242/SB 206: "True Freedom Act of 2019" allows courts to remove certain convictions such as drug possession and misdemeanor theft if they were a result of a victim's human trafficker. It would also make the process of removing convictions easier by allowing a victim to petition to remove convictions without the approval of the State's Attorney. (Sen. Susan C. Lee/Del. Vanessa E. Atterbeary)
- HB 246/SB 231: Amends Maryland's current law to permit prosecution when someone solicits sex from a minor through a third party, such as by asking the child's parent. (Sen. Susan Lee and Del. Jesse Pippy)

We were disappointed that three bills on our agenda did not pass this session:

- HB 590/SB 230. Would repeal the use of marriage as a defense to prosecution of some sex crimes. (Sen. Susan Lee/ Del. Charlotte Crutchfield)
- HB 839/SB 539. Time to Care Act would establish a Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program making paid leave available to Maryland workers for up to 12 weeks following the birth or adoption of a child and when needed to provide care for a family member or oneself. The leave would be funded through an insurance pool, into which workers and their employers contribute. (Sen. Antonia Hayes/Del. Kris Valderrama)
- HB 608/SB 682: Legislation would require a pre-release center for women to prepare incarcerated women for reintegration into society including educational and wellness programs, family supports and counselling and substance abuse treatment. (Sen. Mary Washington/Del. Charlotte Crutchfield)