



Draft #2:

Legislative Priorities for 2021-23

After listening to the Webinar related to Public Policies presented by the AAUW headquarters on February 2, 2021 various priorities were identified to be proposed for inclusion in their legislative priorities of 2021-23.

The next step was to explore the NCGA and their actions thus far, and how the national priorities might be incorporated into our state legislative priorities. Specific bills are identified when known, mention of the Governor's proposed budget is also incorporated, as well as issues/topics under discussion for later inclusion.

This is an attempt to be transparent, keep you informed, and invite you to be a participant in formulating the AAUWNC legislative Priorities for 2021-23. This remains a 'draft' and a 'work in progress'. Please share any comments with me at: maddoxmargie@aol.com.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Margie

Dr. Margie Maddox, Chair

AAUWNC Public Policy Committee

AAUWNC supports the following:

COVID Relief:

- Increased access to health care [Medicaid Expansion, reproductive health care, COVID vaccines, etc.]
- Stimulus payments directly to individuals [Governor has included extended unemployment benefits in his COVID relief budget proposal]
- Restore/expand unemployment benefits [Governor has proposed extensions of unemployment benefits.]
- Child care subsidies [Child Care Is Essential Act; Governor proposing \$336 million for childcare and development block grants.]
- Paid sick/family/medical leave [Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act; seven NC counties now offer paid days off for a new child or an ailing family member]
- State Health Plan inclusion of COVID-19 related expenses. [Funds to be reimbursed in the State Health Plan related to any additional costs incurred during year 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic; Governor's budget proposal; HB 42/SB 36]

Economic Security:

- The Paycheck Fairness Act [Equal Pay Act]
- Raise Wage Act [Federal minimum wage of \$15/hr.]
- Healthy Families Act [able to stay home when ill]
- Pregnant Workers Fairness Act [pregnant women provided with reasonable accommodations to protect health]
- The ERA Amendment passage in NC [Has been introduced in both the House and Senate]
- Fund the Violence Against Women's Act
- Assistance to Food Banks proposed by Governor's budget
- Equal Tax Treatment of Gov't Retirees (HB 52) related to retiree's benefits in NC.

Equal Access to Education:

- Revisions of the Guidelines for Opportunity Vouchers [Oppose HB 32 to expand NC voucher program which will cost taxpayers \$159 million over the next nine years.]
- Stem Opportunities Act
- Efforts to cancel student debt/loans [Federal Loan Forgiveness Program]
- Increase teachers' pay [Governor has outlined bonuses for teachers and college staff in his COVID relief budget proposal; Governor proposed \$2500 bonus for teachers and \$1500 for other school workers.]
- Title IX policy revisions [steps to stop workplace, school and military harassment]
- Higher Education Act [Governor is proposing about \$2 billion for emergency assistance for public and private K-12 schools and higher education; Governor proposing funds for a multi-pronged approach to enhance community and student access to high speed internet]
- In-person Learning Choice [SB 37 & HB 37 being proposed ; waiting for CDC guidelines]
- Restore Master Pay for Certain Educators (SB 59)