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A Monthly Electronic Bulletin for AAUW Leaders in Iowa

The Value of Affiliation with AAUW: By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

Welcome to this monthly electronic publication. You are invited to share this information with other members and branch leaders by forwarding it to them or providing a hard copy.

Maureen White, AAUW Iowa President 2014-16

This article is written by AAUW Iowa Public Policy Co-Directors Jane Nettleton and Anne Stansbury Johnson.

## **Fruitful Lobby Day 2016!**

AAUW-IA held another successful Lobby Day on March 9 at the Capitol in Des Moines. Members from one side of the state to the other attended, and all Iowa Branch members who couldn't make the meeting had the opportunity to contact their legislators that day through our Virtual Lobby Day.

Three members of the legislature spoke to us about bills AAUW-IA has supported. Representative Marti Anderson talked about the Pay Discrimination bill she introduced in the House and the difficulty of getting bills on women's workplace issues out of subcommittees in that chamber.

Senator Liz Mathis discussed education issues, especially the Supplemental State Aid for public schools which is still being wrangled through a Conference Committee of House and Senate members. A compromise may soon be reached, but the SSA will not be the 3.5%-4% which public schools badly need to off-set the last 5 years of 0-2% support.

Senator Kevin Kinney (see photo above) told us about his work combating human trafficking as a Sheriff's Deputy in Johnson Co. He has authored two bills in the Senate, SF 2191, Establishment of a Human Trafficking Office, and for SF 2217, Training to Recognize Human Trafficking for Mandatory Reporters. Both were passed by the Senate, SF 2191 unanimously, and await passage in the House.

After brief advocacy training, branch members contacted their legislators. At the debriefing session that followed, our members were enthusiastic about their opportunities to make their "asks" about our issues! It was an exciting day!

Our Virtual Lobby Day was a first for us. Thanks to Elizabeth Holden, Grassroots Advocacy Manager at AAUW, we were able to send a Two Minute Advocacy request to all of our members on Lobby Day. They could contact their Iowa legislators about issues related to Equal Pay, Education, and Human Trafficking and add their voices to ours at the Capitol. 134 emails were sent to at least 32 legislators, and some of our members in Des Moines heard from their legislators that they had already received emails that day on our issues. What an exciting experience for all of us!

We send a special thanks to those of you who made the trip or who contacted your legislator by email during Lobby Day 2016.

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