



Final Report
State Public Policy Chair
Submitted by Pamela Herndon
July 31, 2021

I have been extremely proud to serve as Chair of the State Public Policy Committee representing a great organization filled with women who care about every community in the State of New Mexico and who want to see everyone in the state thrive. As we look at the concept of Public Policy, AAUW Women can help determine the course of action that could be taken by city, county, and state governmental leaders in response to real problems encountered by the people in our state.

The 2022 legislative session will be devoted to the budget operations of the state. During the Interim Session of the legislature, the various Interim Committees are receiving information on a plethora of topics that could affect the budget.

In my capacity as State Public Policy Chair, I was looking into addressing issues around fair pay and economic equity, particularly how the state can be instrumental in helping address these topics. The organization can help advocate for state and local governments to only contract with companies that show they are providing fair and equal pay to women. State and local governments can also be helpful by ensuring that governmental contracts are only given to companies that will provide women and people of color with equal access to all jobs within an organization. There has been progress in this area with the City of Albuquerque.

The priorities of AAUW in Workplace Sexual Harassment, and Gender Bias in schools are areas that could be addressed during the 2022 legislative session, if AAUW would like to try to get funding in the budget to study how bias affects school disciplinary actions for students. A second study could be focused on the level and intensity of workplace harassment for domestic workers. Other areas can be presented for discussion during the LTM meeting on July 31, 2021.

It has been my distinct honor and pleasure to serve as the Chair of the New Mexico State Public Policy Committee for AAUW.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pamela Herndon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being particularly prominent.

Pamela Herndon, Chair
State Public Policy Committee