

8-2023 Cyber Charter School Reform and State Budget

Education Committee Updates



We just returned from an excellent AAUW PA summer retreat, *Women Together – Fighting on the Front Line*. The following is our front line in education for this fall. One AAUW-Pennsylvania public policy priority is to support a quality system of public education. There are three important issues to watch:

Cyber Charter School Reform: House Bill 1422 is a bill that addresses many reforms including funding and oversight. It has passed the Pennsylvania House of Representatives with bipartisan support. When the Pennsylvania Senate returns in the fall they will make a decision on this bill. **Details:**

https://edvoterspa.org/charter_schools/.

Contact your state senator in September to advocate for this bill:

- Senator Wayne Langerholc, (717) 787-5400, or (814) 806-1197
- Senator Chris Dush, (717)787-7084

State Budget: This has not passed due to a dispute over school vouchers. Governor Shapiro has promised to sign the bill with a line-item veto of the PASS scholarship program (a voucher program). The Senate dismissed for vacation without passing the bill. As soon as the Senate comes back into session Governor Shapiro can sign the bill, and no vote is necessary as long as the Senate is in session. Per Education Voters of PA, there were hundreds of calls and thousands of emails sent against school vouchers. Thanks those of you who participated.

School Board Elections in November: We must pay attention to those running for the SCSAD school board and their views. School boards are being targeted by people with views that are detrimental to public education, such as book banning and curriculum involvement. It is extremely important to vote and urge everyone you know to vote. More on this next month.

–Sue Johnston, Branch Education Chair