

AAUW OHIO LEGISLATION TO WATCH

Ohio General Assembly 133rd Session

Economic Issues

- **House Bill 304, Equal Pay Act:** Introduced on June 26 and referred to the House Commerce and Labor Committee, it is intended to eliminate sex-based wage disparities. No hearings have been scheduled to date. Primary sponsors are Reps. Clites and Howse.
- **Senate Bill 91, Family and Medical Leave:** Introduced on March 7 and referred to the Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee, it is intended to establish family and medical leave benefits. Its first hearing was September 25. Its sponsor is Sen. Maharath.
- **House Bill 19, Pink Tax Exemption:** Introduced on February 12, this bill has had four hearings. It would exempt from sales tax the sale of tampons and other feminine hygiene products. It is being heard in the House Ways and Means Committee but no hearings have been held since May; its primary sponsor is Rep. Antani.

Human Trafficking

- **Senate Bill 13, Human Trafficking, Juveniles:** This bill would treat 16- and 17-year-olds the same as younger victims, and bring Ohio law into accord with federal law on this point. It passed the Senate 31-0, and is now in the House Criminal Justice Committee, but no hearings have been scheduled to date. AAUW has supported similar bills in previous sessions and this time it appears that the bill will pass when the House acts. The primary sponsor is Sen. Fedor.

Education

- **House Bill 305, School Financing:** Introduced on June 26, and referred to the House Finance Committee, this is the much-lauded school funding reform plan prepared by Reps. Cupp and Patterson, prime sponsors. It has been modified from the original proposal, and is just beginning its trek through the legislature. No hearings are scheduled yet.

Gun Control

Governor DeWine's 17-point proposal has yet to be introduced as legislation, but several other gun bills are beginning to be heard. These include:

- **Senate Bill 62, Prohibit Trigger Cranks, Bump Stocks**
- **Senate Bill 63, Firearm Transfers**
- **Senate Bill 64, Raise Minimum Age--Firearm Purchases**
- **Senate Bill 65, Firearm Transfers—Gun Shows**

All of these had their first hearing on September 17 in the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee, and all are sponsored by Sen. C. Thomas. On the House side, gun control bills have been introduced but not heard. These include:

- **House Bill 316, Red Flag Protection Orders** (referred to House Health Committee September 24)
- **House Bill 317, Firearm Transfers** (referred to House State and Local Government Committee September 24)
- **House Bill 349, Large Capacity Magazines** (introduced September 24, not yet referred to a committee)