



# newsrelease

**For Immediate Release**

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## **AAUW Supports Introduction of New Civil Rights Bill**

*Reaffirms Fairness and Equality in Legislation*

**WASHINGTON**—The American Association of University Women expressed its support for the Civil Rights Bill of 2004: The Fairness Act, a bill aimed at reaffirming the principles of fairness, equality, and protection of the rights of citizens, employees, and members of minorities.

“As we approach the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, it is crucial for us to build on the progress we’ve made because of these landmark events,” commented Jacqueline Woods, Executive Director of AAUW. “This bill emphasizes our commitment to protecting the rights that so many people have fought to defend.”

The bill, co-sponsored by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA) and Rep. George Miller (D-CA), members of the House and Senate, aims to ensure equal treatment for all Americans in several areas:

- Equal access to public services and fair treatment for the military (Title I)
- Protection for older workers (Title II)
- Access to the courts and effective remedies (Title II)
- Equal pay for equal work (Title IV)
- Fair treatment for workers (Title V)

“Recent court cases have undercut protections in a number of civil rights laws,” said Lisa Maatz, Director of Public Policy and Government Relations at AAUW. “Through this bill, issues that are important to Americans—and especially ones that concern women such as fair pay—are defended.”

For more than a century, AAUW has influenced legislative debate on critical issues such as education, Social Security, sex discrimination, civil rights, reproductive choice, affirmative action, Title IX, welfare reform, vocational education, pay equity, family and medical leave, and health care reform. For more information on AAUW’s issue advocacy program, visit [www.aauw.org/takeaction/index.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/takeaction/index.cfm)

*Lisa Maatz, Director of Public Policy and Government Relations for AAUW, is available for comment on this topic.*

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The American Association of University Women, with its nationwide network of more than 100,000 bipartisan members and 1,300 branches, has long been a strong and vocal advocate for the equal opportunity and treatment of women and girls in education and on the athletic field. Please visit our web site at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) for more information.

Because **equity** is still an **issue**™