

## 2017 Recap

**AAUW Idaho's Lobby Corps met January 4, 2017**, to determine key priorities for 2017 and train members to lobby more effectively. The training was led by **Beth Oppenheimer**, executive director of the Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children (IAEYC) and former Speaker of the House **Bruce Newcomb**, currently BSU government affairs director.

The **2017 AAUW Idaho Statehouse Lobby Corps Coordinating Committee** members are: Linda Anderson, [Boise Area Branch](#) Public Policy Chair; Sylvia Chariton, [Boise Area Branch](#) President; Julie Custer, [AAUW Idaho](#) Co-President; Kathy Scott, [AAUW Idaho](#) Co-President; and Gayle Wilde, [AAUW Idaho](#) Vice President Public Policy. AAUW members from around the state will be actively engaged in citizen lobbying efforts during the legislative session.

### Key priority issues were:

- - **Add the Words** - Support; bill is once again dead for the session.
  - **Education**
    - a. **Vouchers - Oppose**
    - b. **Funding for public schools - Support.** Conversely, we **OPPOSE [HB 67](#)**, which provides a tax break for the wealthiest Idaho earners (\$400,000+ households will receive the heftiest tax break, while average earners will get up to \$32) and cuts the general fund by \$51.2 million: impacts to education and infrastructure spending will be painful. Idaho remains 49th in the nation for education spending; this is not the time to provide tax cuts for those who don't need it.
    - c. **School Readiness - Support:** Review the Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children ([Idaho AEYC](#)) [Advocacy Toolkit 2017](#)
  - **Health care:** We **support [Close the Gap Idaho](#)** and access to quality health care for all Idahoans. **It was a HUGE disappointment that legislators FAILED to address the needs of over 78,000 Idahoans in need of health care during the session, with the weak excuse that they were waiting for D.C. to pick up the ball.**
  - **Sexual Assault Evidence** - AAUW **strongly supports [HB 146](#)**, which creates standards necessary for the preservation of sexual assault evidence.
  - **Women's Reproductive Rights** - **Support full access to women's reproductive health care services.**