

2018 Idaho Legislative Session

The 2018 Idaho Legislative Session convened on January 8 and adjourned sine die on March 28. The AAUW Idaho Statehouse Lobby Corps met on January 5 to determine specific advocacy priorities for the session. Lobby Corps members attended hearings and provided testimony on the following bills during the session.

Education Reform and Full Funding for Public Education

1) *Common Core, [HB 412](#) and Science Standards*

Rep. Ron Nate

Position: Support science standards

Outcome: Passed.

The standards were approved by the Senate Ed Committee on 02/22/18.

2) *Guided Education Management Act, [HB 590](#)*

Rep. John Vander Woude

Position: Oppose

Outcome: Failed. The full House approved the bill on 03/05/18. HB 590 establishes a new scholarship program for private schools only; this is a step toward an Idaho voucher program. Here's Betsy Russell's [Eye On Boise](#) report on today's vote.

In a surprise announcement, the Senate Education Committee cancelled a scheduled hearing on 03/13/18.

This essentially kills the bill. Read [Clark Corbin's story](#) on this development.

3) *Idaho Opportunities Scholarship aka Adult Completer Scholarship, [SB 1279](#)*

Position: Support

Outcome: Passed.

The full Senate passed the bill on 02/27/18; the full House approved the bill on 03/19/18, so legislation goes to the Governor. The bill will provide financial incentives for adults with some college to complete postsecondary degrees.

Early Childhood Education

(Pilot Program) — View a PowerPoint presentation here: [Early Learning Survey Results 2018](#)

The Andrus Center for Public Policy and the Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children hosted an informational meeting about early childhood education in Idaho on Feb. 12. No action in 2018 session.

Healthcare Access (Comprehensive) and Medicaid Expansion

1) *The Idaho Health Care Plan, [HB 464](#)*

Position: Support, despite Medicaid work requirement added 1/30/18. After analysis, our allies at Close the Gap determined that passing this complex bill is the best step forward.

Outcome: Failed.

The Idaho Health Care Plan was pulled from the House floor on 02/27/18 and returned to committee - on 03/19/18, the House H&W Committee voted to return the bill to the House floor for a vote. On 03/21/18 the full House voted to return the bill to committee, effectively killing the bill (again) for the session.

2) *Abortion "abortion pill reversal," [SB 1243](#)*

Sen. Lori Den Hartog, Sen. Stephen Vick

Position: Oppose

Outcome: Passed.

The bill passed both bodies on party line votes (read Betsy Russell's short [Eye On Boise](#) post about the House State Affairs Committee hearing). "Chemical abortion reversal" is not based on science or medicine and Idaho women deserve accurate information from their physicians. Read more about AAUW's position on [reproductive freedom and economic security here](#).

3) *Insurance Coverage for Contraceptives* [SB 1281](#)

Sen. Cherie Buckner-Webb, Sen. Janie Ward-Engelking

Position: Support

Outcome: Failed.

The legislation's purpose was to ensure consistent access to birth control. The bill was killed for the session on 02/27/18 after being sent back to its sponsor on a 5-4 vote by the Senate Commerce and Human Resources Committee. Read Betsy Russell's [Eye On Boise](#) blog post about the hearing.

4) *Plan First Idaho* [HB 563](#)

Rep. Mat Erpelding

Position: Support

Outcome: Failed.

The House Health and Welfare Committee sent the proposal to the full House on 02/28/18 with a "do-pass" recommendation. On 03/07/18 the House agreed to defer a vote on this bill until 03/21/18, which is the hoped-for adjournment date. Details can be found in Betsy Russell's [Eye On Boise](#) story. The bill would provide essential preventive health services to women currently in the health care coverage gap, including annual exams, cancer and diabetes screening, as well as family planning services (not to include abortion), saving tax dollars.

Sexual Assault Victim's Rights

Crime Victim's Compensation, [HB 429](#)

Rep. Melissa Wintrow

Position: Strongly Support

Outcome: Passed.

Bill passed House floor vote nearly unanimously. Bill moved on to Senate Judiciary & Rules Committee where it was sent to the 14th Order for amendment. On 03/08/2018, the full Senate passed the amended bill 34-1. The bill returned to the full House, and was passed on 03/19/18!

Stand Your Ground

Use of Deadly Force, Self Defense, [SB 1313](#)

Sen. Todd M. Lakey, Rep. Judy Boyle

Position: Oppose

Outcome: Passed and sent to governor 03/15/18.

Domestic Violence Prevention

Firearms, Domestic Violence, [HB 585](#)

Rep. Melissa Wintrow

Position: Support

Outcome: Failed.

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Rules Committee on 03/01/18; sent to House floor. The bill, "to forbid those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence from having guns for two years," was defeated 03/06/18 in the House on a 31-39 vote. You can read Betsy Russell's [Eye On Boise](#) blog for more detail. The outcome of this vote was a huge disappointment.

Article V Constitutional Convention

Modifying the U.S. Constitution [HCR032](#)

Rep. Thomas Loertscher

Position: Oppose

Outcome: Failed in committee.