



The American Association of University Women of Florida has over 10,000 members and supporters statewide. We advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research

Florida 2026 Legislative Session: Bills We Do Not Support

Why we do not support these bills:

Many of these bills seem to propose good things: compensation for loss, parental rights, freedom to work. But each one contains the potential for harm when applied.

HB289, SB164: Civil Liability for the Wrongful Death of an Unborn Child

- Parents of an unborn child (embryo or fetus) would have the opportunity to receive damages for its wrongful death. Mothers and doctors are protected from liability.
- **POTENTIAL HARM:** establishing rights for a fetus equivalent to those of a born child opens the door for granting the same rights as a person in other contexts.

HB173, SB166: Parental Rights

- Removes conditions related to contraception, substance abuse, and mental health issues under which a minor might be treated on the judgement of a medical professional without parental permission.
- Requires disclosure to parents of the form and permission for the minor student to take surveys that might reveal political affiliations, mental health issues, sexual behavior, critical appraisals of family, religious practices, income, or any kind of self-incriminating behavior.
- **POTENTIAL HARM:** in some cases, especially emergencies, non-parent experts need to intervene. Surveys that don't include all students are useless for guiding policy.

HB147, SB430: Oaths (for educational personnel or teachers—the bills are not identical)

- Teachers/personnel would be required to solemnly swear to uphold the Constitutions of the US and Florida, be professionally qualified, nonpartisan and objective, and promote a respectful learning environment for all students.
- **POTENTIAL HARM:** Invites non-educators to judge compliance with these oaths, in contrast with oaths for other professions such as doctors who are judged by peers.

HB221, SB 1412: Minimum Wage Requirements

- Would allow employees to waive the Florida minimum wage (currently about \$15) if in a “work-based learning opportunity”.
- **POTENTIAL HARM:**
 - Does not distinguish between such “opportunities”: high school, college, etc.
 - Research shows paid interns get permanent jobs at a higher rate
 - Disadvantaged students can't afford to take on an unpaid or underpaid internship
 - Despite a requirement that the employer can't coerce this waiver, an employer could offer “opportunities” only to those who will waive the minimum wage.