

[SPREAD THE WORD. Help keep your members up-to-date on AAUW's Campaign for Choice. Reprint this letter and/or the enclosed talking points in your next branch newsletter.]



SHARON SCHUSTER
PRESIDENT

Dear AAUW Member:

Ever since the infamous Webster decision on July 3, 1989, we have been waiting for the other shoe to drop—for the U.S. Supreme Court to use another case to reverse *Roe v. Wade* and eliminate the right to reproductive choice. That time draws close as the court is considering the Pennsylvania case right now.

We in AAUW faced our own choices in determining the appropriate response to this threat to reproductive freedom. One choice would be to concentrate our energy solely on the *AAUW Initiative for Educational Equity* and forgo continued work on choice. Some members would be pleased with this decision as they've never been entirely comfortable with our position on reproductive freedom. Another choice would be to continue our work on the *Initiative* but at the same time mobilize members to protect our right to choose.

After much discussion, the Association leadership realized that, in fact, we had no choice. The greatest number of members—members for whom it is unthinkable to lose our reproductive freedom—expect AAUW to be a leader in the fight for our basic rights as we have been since 1935. To create educational equity for women and girls while our most basic right—the right to control our own bodies—may be denied is a fruitless exercise, a hollow promise.

For those of us in AAUW, the fight for reproductive choice is not simply a fight for personal freedom. It's a fight for our mothers, many of whom did not enjoy the full freedoms that should have been their birthright. And it's a fight for our daughters—a fight to make sure our girls have every opportunity to fulfill their potential.

But how can we teach girls to liberate their minds if they can't control their bodies? How can we encourage girls to make career choices if they can't make the most personal choice of all? How can we win the battle for equity in the classroom if we lose the war for women's most basic freedom?

When the Pennsylvania case decision is handed down, probably in late June or early July, we expect a landslide of outrage that we must mobilize to pass the Freedom of Choice Act, elect pro-choice legislators, and strengthen state laws. To accomplish this, we will be going to every member to ask for support, once more, for the Campaign for Choice.

The Association Board of Directors did not choose this time to rally once more for choice. Forces beyond our control chose the time for us. But the time is here, and we have made a conscious decision in our strategic plan to take advantage of groundbreaking opportunities. The upcoming U.S. Supreme Court decision is one of those opportunities.

When we look in the eyes of young girls—our daughters and granddaughters, our nieces and neighbors—we want each one to be able to go as far as her energy, talent, and ambition will take her. That's AAUW's dream for every girl. As an AAUW member, you can help make that dream a reality. We invite you to join in the AAUW Campaign for Choice.

Sincerely,


Sharon Schuster
AAUW President


Karen Holmes Gallagher
AAUW Director of Public Policy

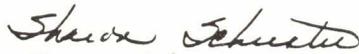
pro-choice candidates, by lobbying key senators and congressmembers on the Freedom of Choice Act, and by encouraging members as individuals to be involved in supporting pro-choice candidates with their money and volunteer skills. And you can help your state by getting involved in thwarting state legislative initiatives based on the newest court rulings and by keeping members informed about the threat they face.

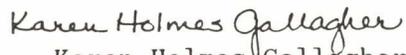
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We invite you to join in the AAUW Campaign for Choice through your leadership. In closing, we share these motivating words from poet Natasha Josefowitz.

Sincerely,


Sharon Schuster
AAUW President


Karen Holmes Gallagher
AAUW Director of Public Policy

CHOICES

Up front

or last row

Out there

or hidden

Speaking up for

Speaking up against

or shutting up

into safety

Be heard

Visible

Criticized

Attacked

Be quiet

unnoticed

left alone

peaceful

To shout the anger

To cry the tears

To educate, correct, confront

To mumble in corners

grumble with friends

protect myself from learning

protect others from changing