

Public Policy Update
Public Policy Officer Emily Owens

There are two issues I am calling on you to support. The first is the importance of supporting our local school boards. [Please register for the Zoom meeting](#) to be held on Tuesday, February 8, at 7pm CST that our branch is cosponsoring. The presentation is titled “Combating Disinformation at Local School Board Meetings.” Be sure to watch this informative program.

The second issue is that of paid family and medical leave (PFML). Nine states and the District of Columbia have PFML provisions in place. Illinois Senate Bill 835, the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Act, proposes to set up an insurance program for all employees and even the self-employed. Naperville AAUW hosted a webinar in May of 2021 which is available to view as a Youtube video using the address below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYZuAVEf8jk>

The video lasts about 37 ½ minutes and includes a presentation by Robert Bruno, a professor at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. His specialty is Labor and Employment Relations. He says, “Motherhood is the biggest contributor to the gender pay gap.” Sarah Labadie of the non-profit Women Employed speaks about some specifics of the bill. Their website is <https://www.womenemployed.org>

I encourage you to view the webinar and visit the website. PFML is a gender equity issue. PFML would boost worker incomes and boost the economy with their increased spending. Consider the issue of retirement income security too since higher wage income leads to more saving for retirement, an area where women are also at a disadvantage. Find your IL state senators and representatives and their contact information at <https://www.IllinoisPolicy.org>

Let them know how you feel about this pending legislation.
Thank you.