



**Business and
Professional
Women/OH**

LEGISLATIVE NEWS, TOPICS AND ACTION NEEDED

Our Mission: To achieve equity for all women in the workplace and to empower all women through advocacy, educations, and information. Established in 1920

Disclaimer: The information contained in the links below are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of BPW/Ohio. They are provided for your information to educate you about these pending legislative issues. If you would like to include links in future issues, please email to: BPW/Ohio LegChair@gmail.com. Include your name and local organization's name.

JUNE 2026 LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

BPW OHIO Legislative Platform Adopted May 16, 2026

At the May 16th, 2026, BPW Ohio Conference 2026 Business Session the Conference body adopted the organization's Legislative Platform for 2026-2027. Our new platform contains two (2) new Planks: **VOTER RIGHTS** and **RESIDENCY RIGHTS**. Please take the time to review the updated Platform as we will be working on these issues this year. We want to ensure that our voting rights are not diminished and that none of us lose our rights as residents and citizens of this country. **A copy of the newly adopted Legislative Platform is attached and you may also find copies on our BPW Ohio Website.**

Resolutions from BPW Ohio 2026 Conference

Also, at the recently concluded BPW Ohio 2026 Annual Conference, the Conference body adopted several Legislatively Related Resolutions. Ther are:

A.BPW OHIO Resolution No. 4: Support Equal Rights for all Citizens by Explicitly Including and Equality Amendment in the United States Constitution and in the Constitution of the State of Ohio.

We are continuing our fight to have the ERA recognized as the law of the land and want members to stay engaged in this effort. The Alice Paul ERA continues to be an integral part of our Legislative Platform. We encourage our members to continue to contact your legislators and press for the recognition of the ERA as the 28th Amendment to the Constitution.

Additionally, we are asking our members to become engaged in the process to have the Ohio Equal Rights Amendment adopted as part of the Ohio Constitution. Reach out to your legislators and encourage them to Amend Article I of the Ohio Constitution to add Section 23 – The Equality Under the Law provision.

A copy of Resolution 4 is also attached, along with an Explanation as to why the Equal Rights Amendment is the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

B. BPW OHIO Resolution No. 5: Resolution in Support of Open and Fair Elections and Protection of our Right to Vote:

In this BPW Ohio Resolution we are affirming BPW Ohio's belief that our right to vote is sacred and that we need to be watchful for any efforts which will diminish our rights to vote or impose unnecessary hardships on those who are exercising their rights to vote.

Currently, there are two (2) pieces of legislation that are pending in the Ohio Legislature which could impede or negatively impact our rights to vote – Senate Joint Resolution 10 and House Joint Resolution 9. These resolutions would enact Section 5 of Article V of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to require that “elector’s show photo identification when voting in person at a polling place or other voting location designated by law...”

Additionally, this legislation provides that **“nothing in this section requires the general assembly to pass laws allowing electors to vote in any location or manner other than in person at a polling place on the day of an election.”**

In other words: no mailing in voting, no absentee voting no early voting. These voting options which you currently have could be eliminated if these Joint Resolutions pass.

Voting on these Joint Resolutions are scheduled for some time this month. Therefore, it is imperative for us to reach out to our Legislators and let them know that we do not feel Senate Joint Resolution 10 and House Joint Resolution 9 are in the best interest of Ohioans. The Senate Resolution is pending in the General Government Committee: Some of the Committee members are Senator Kristian D. Roeger – District 27 (614-466-4823); Senator Jane Timken – District 29 (612) 466-0626; Senator Theresa Gavarone – District 2 (614-466-8060; Senator William Blackshear- District 6 (614-466-4538; Senator William DeMora – District 25 (614-466-4583; Senator Stephen Huffman – District 5 (614-466-6247 and Senator Bill Reinke – District 26 (614-466-8049, **Call their offices and let them know that you do not support this legislation.**

Copies of BPW Ohio Resolution 5 is attached along with copies of Joint Senate Resolution 10

C, BPW OHIO Resolution No. 6: Resolution in Support of Elimination of Child Marriage in Ohio

Some of you may be surprised to find out that several years ago, the law was changed to allow 17-year-olds to get married. **Currently, pending in the Ohio House and Senate is legislation that would require someone to be 18 years of age before they can be married,** When you think about the fact that most young people under the age of 18 can't enter into a lot of adult transactions, such as buying a house, buying a car, renting an apartment, retaining an attorney, filing a lawsuit or enter into a legally binding contract how is it that we let 17 year olds get married. **Bipartisan legislation (Senate Bill 341 and House Bill 670) would ban child marriage in Ohio by raising the minimum age to 18 with no exceptions.**

The Arguments for banning child marriage include the difficulty of married minors to get divorces, the severe power imbalance if you have a 17-year minor married to someone significantly older than they are and issues related to human trafficking.

This legislation was recently scheduled for a vote last week but it was pulled from the Committee's Agenda. **It is currently pending in the Senate Judiciary Committee.** This legislation has already had four (4) hearings since it was introduced earlier this year and so far it does not look like anyone has testified against the legislation but it is still being held up in Committee. **Senators on the Judiciary Committee** are Nathan Manning (Chair) – District 13 (614-644-7613; Michelle Reynolds – District 3 (614-466-8064; Paula Hicks-Hudson – District 11 (614-466-5204), Lousi Blessing, III – District 8 (614) 466-8068, Al Contorno – District 32 (614-466-8285, Theresa Gavarone – District 2 (614-466-8060 and Kent Smith – District 21 (614-466-4857.

Call and request that they move this legislation out of Committee so that it can be passed by the Legislature and protect our youth.

Also, be advised that several other organizations including Zonta and Unchained At Last (<http://www.UnchainedAtLast.org>) are planning a demonstration at the Ohio Capital on Wednesday, June 3rd, 2026, in support of this legislation,

They will start with lobbying members of both houses from 9:00 am until approx.. 11:30; then lunch from 11:30 am until 1:00 at which time there will be a “Chained In Event” in front of the Capital Building. Lobbying efforts will then resume from 2:00 pm until 5:00. If you want more information about this event or wish to join, reach out to our BPW Ohio Legislative Consultant, Kathey Telban at ktelban@ameritech.net or (216) 650-3153. She is planning to attend. (I may also make it but unsure at this time). In any event, Kathy will be dropping off copies of our Conference Resolution in support of raising the marrying age to 18 to members of the Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee on behalf of BPW Ohio.

Closing Remarks:

BPW members, as you can see, there is always work to be done to continue to protect, advocate and safeguard our rights as women. As your Legislative Chair for 2026-2027, I need your help, your input, and your willingness to be an Advocate for all of the women in your families, in your communities, in your workplace and just in this world. My goal is to try to get something out to you about pending legislation at least monthly but please feel free to pass information along to me that you come across in your daily activities.

Please feel free to share this Newsletter with your circle of BPW sisters, your family, your friends, or anyone else you know who will stand up for the rights of women.

BPW has been advocating for Women since 1920, We cannot stop now. The need is too great and future generations are relying on us not to grow tired or weary.

Best Personal Wishes to each of you.

Charlon K. Dewberry
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