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Dear AAUW of Michigan Members,

This April, we will have the opportunity to practice the inclusion that we value by voting to welcome any person who is passionate about equity for women into AAUW, whether they have a degree or not.

AAUW National is proposing a bylaws amendment to eliminate the degree requirement for membership. On February 17, 2024, the AAUW of Michigan Board of Directors unanimously approved a statement of support for the bylaws change.

In 2021, 63.75% of AAUW of Michigan branch members approved the change. However, only 30.2% of branch members voted. 69.7% of National Members in Michigan approved the change, but only 5.8% voted. An amendment to the bylaws requires a two-thirds majority of voters to pass.

Our reasons for supporting open membership include the following:

- As AAUW has changed to adapt to the changing world, its membership requirements have changed many times to become more inclusive. This change would allow all who support our mission to stand with us.
- Those without degrees fight for gender equity just as we do. We can be stronger advocates as we learn more about their battles and their alternate paths to success.
- We firmly believe that opening up membership is in the best interests of AAUW and its future relevance and sustainability as an inclusive and forward-thinking organization committed to advancing equity for women and girls. Open Membership will finally align our membership requirements with our mission and values.

We urge you to study the issues and to cast your vote.

Respectfully,

Your AAUW of Michigan Board