

June, 2022

Zonta USA Caucus Advocacy Bulletin



ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL
USA CAUCUS
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

The USA Caucus is a place for clubs and districts in the US to align on key issues and provides a platform for coordinated advocacy actions within the US.

Climate Change

If you missed the USA Caucus's second Think Tank on Climate Change or want to watch it again, check out the [recording](#) of the session. And watch for the third Think Tank coming up in September.

Education and Work

The Caucus's Education and Work Subcommittee is closely following [HR 6699, Part-Time Worker Bill of Rights Act](#), which extends protections to part-time workers in the areas of family and medical leave and pension plans and ensures equitable treatment in the workplace. Watch for recommended actions to come.

Women and Gun Violence

As the country reels from the tragic massacre of elementary school children in Uvalde, the impact of gun violence on women often gets left out of the conversation. [The ERA Coalition](#) has expanded its focus to address this issue. Learn more about the connection between toxic masculinities and mass shootings in this [video](#) with Dr. Jackson Katz who has been studying the topic for decades. He asks, "How are we [as a society] defining manhood in such a way that so many boys and men feel like they need to use violence?"

Update on Child Marriage

National Coalition to End Child Marriage Member, Genevieve Meyer's, recent [op-ed](#) in the Journal Gazette addresses the arguments against child marriage, and tells her harrowing story of being married at 15 to a 42-year-old, twice divorced, unemployed man who convinced her mentally ill mother to let him marry her. She ends the article with: "Child marriage is a cancer to American society, and we must all stand up and end it for the sake of our children. If we see marrying our young girls off as a solution to any problem, then we as a nation have failed our children."

In partnership with UNICEF, the Caucus has placed a billboard in Boston, running for four weeks, demanding the end to child marriage in Massachusetts.

Looking for a unique service project? Consider Unchained at Last's [Un-Wedding Gift Registry](#), containing monthly specific, urgent needs to help survivors escape and rebuild their lives.

Reproductive Rights

The Caucus has issued a [statement](#) on the Draft SCOTUS Decision overturning Roe v. Wade reflecting ZI's position that every person should have the freedom to make decisions about their bodies and to safely and privately access healthcare.

Impact of Title IX

Title IX celebrates its 50th anniversary this month. The legislation prohibited US schools from discriminating on the basis of sex. It is best known for opening up opportunities for women and girls in sports but also provided female students with a basis for other educational opportunities, as well as improvements in dealing with sexual assault and sexual harassment on campus. The Women's Sports Foundation has issued a report, "[50 Years of Title IX: We're Not Done Yet](#)", exploring the impact of the legislation.

One of the most visible effects of Title IX in the world of sports has been the rise in opportunities in and popularity of women's soccer. The U.S. Women's Soccer team has inspired countless girls to participate in sports. Nevertheless, for years the women's team has received significantly less compensation than the U.S. Men's Soccer team, despite being more successful and garnering better attendance. After years of tireless effort on the part of advocates, The U.S. Soccer Federation recently [announced](#) its historic decision to pay the U.S. Men's National Team and the U.S. Women's National Team equally! So nice to have some good news!

As June 23, the anniversary of Title IX approaches, End Rape on Campus is teaming up with [It's on Us](#) to launch IX Thousand for Title IX. The two organizations are gathering the names of 9,000 survivors of campus sexual assault to uplift and empower other survivors. Current and former college students who have experienced campus sexual assault are asked to stand in solidarity with all survivors by [adding their name](#) to the list. Please spread the word.

Women in the Ukraine

Since the Russian Federation invaded Ukraine in February, women have played a key role in responding to the invasion and defending their country. Sen. Res. 589, "A resolution recognizing, honoring, and commending the women of Ukraine who have contributed to the fight for freedom and the defense of Ukraine," acknowledges that women are often the targets of deliberate violence during conflicts, which is evident through Russia's deliberate attacks on maternity wards and use of rape as a weapon of war.

This bipartisan resolution calls on all countries to provide aid to refugees and support women in Ukraine who are keeping families and children safe, delivering supplies and weapons, administering medical care, fighting as part of the armed forces and more. Please use the Caucus's pre-prepared [letter](#) to urge your senators to co-sponsor and support S. Res. 589 or to thank those who have already done so.

Zonta Dis. 8, which was instrumental in the formation of the Uzhhorod, Ukraine club, continues to collect money for District 27's efforts to assist women in Ukraine. Donate [HERE](#) and find more information on the District 8 [website](#).

Read an [interview](#) with the director of the Ukrainian Women's Fund, which is supported by the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, about ways the UWF has transformed its operations to meet the needs of local feminist networks and coalitions to assist women and girls during this crisis. Also check out this [article](#) from Women for Women International about the increasing sexual violence against women in the Ukraine.