

## AAUW-Bethlehem Represented at AAUW-PA Harrisburg Rally and Lobbying Day

Susan McNamara, AAUW-Bethlehem and Toni Hoffman, AAUW-Easton were among AAUW members participating in the AAUW-PA Rally and Lobbying in Harrisburg on Equal Pay Day, April 10, 2018. They attended an 11:00 am. briefing led by AAUW-PA Public Policy Co-chairs Ann Pehle and Barbara Price. Participants received their home districts legislators' equal pay informational packets and reviewed talking-points materials. They were then sent off to begin lobbying visits with their



AAUW-PA Equal Pay Day buttons prominently displayed . Although it was known in advance that the Senate would not be, the House was scheduled to be in session, allowing for the possibility of actually meeting with representatives. Timing did not quite work out, however; representatives had been called onto the floor for voting just as we began to make the rounds. We did talk with staff and left our representatives' offices with our AAUW ASK--"Support HB 1243 for Pay Equity".

At the 2:00 pm Rally, AAUW-PA was joined by members of the Business and Professional Women Pennsylvania organization. Speakers included Suzanne Almedia, Executive Director ,Pennsylvania League of Women Voters; Representatives Tina Davis and Brian Sims, Co-sponsors of HB 1243; Madeline Dean form the Pennsylvania Commission for Women, and Dan Frankel, Convener of the legislative Women's Health Caucus.



More than 50 years after the passing of the first Equal Pay Act, a woman fully employed, full time, year round in the US is paid typically 80 % that a man earns. In Pennsylvania, that ratio slip to 79%. In the Lehigh Valley women in PA district 17 (Cartwright) are earning only 76.3% but slightly more at 80.7% in the 15<sup>th</sup> district (Dent). Most disappointing is that among the states, Pennsylvania has dropped in Equal Pay ranking from 27<sup>th</sup> last year to 29<sup>th</sup> place this year.