



Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek (CA)



# The Advocate, April 2021

Online at <https://daw-ca.aauw.net/newsletter/>

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## From the President

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*by Chris Ritter, President*



The pandemic may have kept us physically distant, but we continue to find new and wonderful ways to nourish our social connections and to support our important projects. This Advocate issue contains a wealth of information on our accomplishments and upcoming activities.

The big news is that this year’s garden-themed fundraiser will be re-imagined into a series of three private VIP Receptions in partnership with the Ruth Bancroft Gardens in Walnut Creek. Marsha Anderson and Deborah Wechsler have been working with the garden staff to create a memorable and special experience for our attendees. Proceeds will fund our Local Scholarships; we will look to reinstate our traditional Garden Tour next year.

I hope you will all join our April 21<sup>st</sup> “Local Women in Encore Careers” program. It will feature several inspiring women who will share how they added meaning and joy to their lives in “encore” careers after 50. And we can discuss our thoughts on the topic at our Wine Chat & Board meeting the following evening, April 22<sup>nd</sup>!

Now is the time to get ready for our May 6<sup>th</sup> Creativity Night program. This is your opportunity to share whatever you do that is somehow creative (decorating, baking, art, poetry, music, gardening, organizing?). We will also collect the final votes on the candidate slate for our 2021-22 branch officers.

Meanwhile, applications are arriving for our Local Scholarships and we have lots of deserving

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### April To Do List

#### [Volunteer](#)

Attend the **Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>**, [Local Women in Encore Careers](#) Program.

Catch up with friends at the [Wine, Chat and Board Update Party, Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>](#).

Contact Joanne Quijano to [Volunteer for Branch Elected or Appointed Board Position](#).

Contact Deborah Wechsler to [Volunteer to help with the Tech Trek Virtual Summer Camp](#).

[Register](#) and attend the AAUW CA annual conference **April 17<sup>th</sup>**

Submit an image, document, video, or audio file by Apr 29<sup>th</sup> for the [May Creativity Night Program](#), happening on **Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup>**.

Save the date of **Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup>**, for the [AAUW VIP Receptions at the Ruth Bancroft Garden](#)

Buy your raffle tickets for our Local Scholarships [Quilt Drawing](#)

candidates. Tech Trek plans are on the move and there's still time to be a coach or volunteer in some other way to join the activity.

Our branch also made our voices heard in the California State Legislature. Our members joined the AAUW CA March 24<sup>th</sup> Lobby Day where we held meetings with our state legislators to solicit their support on three top-priority bills for AAUW California. Our board voted to endorse the [Ballot Disclose Act \(SB90 and AB 1416\)](#) which will improve voter education by printing the supporting and opposing groups for initiatives on our state ballots.

Voting opens April 7 on our own AAUW national proposal to eliminate the degree requirement for AAUW membership. [Click here](#) for detailed information including a video from members on the topic, attend the [AAUW National Town Hall](#) on Member Education Requirements Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 1pm, and please be sure to cast your vote online beginning April 7th.

Wishing you a joyous spring,

*Chris Ritter*

## **From the Editor**

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We welcome your contributions to the Advocate. Send any articles and pictures to Claudia Schwarz, "Standing Editor," by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the next month's Advocate. Submissions should be in the following format:

- Articles in a .doc or .docx file, or in the body of an email
- Pictures in .jpg format (compressed)

Contact information for people mentioned in the Advocate is on our branch website and in your directory. If you do not have a directory, contact Marsha Anderson Landau.

## **From the Corresponding Secretary**

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Pat Gross, our Corresponding Secretary, sends out cards on behalf of our Branch. Let Pat know if you know about any AAUW-DAW member who might appreciate a "Get Well" card, a condolence card after the death of a loved one, or a congratulations card.

## **From the Treasurer: Where to Send Expenses and Deposits**

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If you have expense vouchers or deposits, send them to our AAUW P.O. Box 966 in Alamo, 94507 instead of to our Treasurer's home. We can process your transaction more quickly if your paperwork goes to the P.O. box in case the Treasurer is unavailable.

## Upcoming Events

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### Local Women in Encore Careers, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 5:00 to 6:30

*by Bette Felton, Programs VP*



**Join us for a conversation with  
Local Women Leaders  
5:00 p.m., Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>**

#### **Featuring**

- Candace Anderson, Contra Costa Board of Supervisors
- Sally Scholl, Field Trainer, Lifewater International
- Beverly Lane, Director of East Bay Regional Parks District

Be inspired by these local leaders! Learn more about them [HERE](#)

Author Mark Freedman coined the term in his book “Encore: Finding Work That Matters in the Second Half of Life.” We will hear stories of challenge and opportunities in their work and personal lives.

This program is open to the public. Members may attend by using the link on the Branch’s Zoom Meeting Links page <https://daw-ca.aauw.net/zoom-meeting-links/>. Invite your friends to register here: [Local Women in Encore Careers Tickets, Eventbrite](#)

### Wine, Chat and Board Update, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 5:00 to 6:00

*by Chris Ritter, President*

Come join the board and your AAUW friends on Thursday April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5:00 to 6:00, via Zoom. It’s a chance to have a relaxed visit with friends—especially needed these days—and find out what our branch is working on. We look forward to hearing your thoughts on our programs and upcoming activities! You can get the Zoom meeting link for this event here: <https://daw-ca.aauw.net/zoom-meeting-links/>

### National AAUW Art Contest – Winners

Congratulations to the winners of this year’s AAUW art contest! Their work, shown below, will be used to create AAUW note cards that will be sent to all members. [Click Here](#) to view all of the works.



"Indian Paintbrush" by Ann Achols



"Ebullience" by Janice Arrow Smith



"Blue Bottles" by Nancy Willis



"Mushrooms in the Mist" by Andrea Laudate



"Hidden Women" by Arlene Gochl



"A Bridge to Peace" by Mary Segraves

### AAUW California Annual Meeting, April 17, 2021

by Dianne Owens, President, AAUW CA, [statepresident@aauw-ca.org](mailto:statepresident@aauw-ca.org)

Our AAUW California Annual Meeting will be held via Zoom for the second year. No travel, no hotel reservations, and no lunch, once again. But that means you can attend at no cost from your office, living room, or kitchen.

You will learn what has been happening in California this past year, and it is a lot! You will see the three Speech Trek Finalists, learn who our 2020 State Named Gift Honoree is, and see the first Equity Award given to former State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson. AAUW Board Chair, Julia Brown will join us, and we have a special event brought to us by past Co-President Cathy Foxhoven. Do not delay, plan to join us on April 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am by registering [HERE](#) now!

## Time to Renew Your Membership

**Roli Wendorf**, Chief Financial Officer, Finance Committee Chair, AAUW CA, [cfo@aauw-ca.org](mailto:cfo@aauw-ca.org)

The membership renewal period for the coming 2021-22 year started on March 16<sup>th</sup>. National dues will be \$62 for 2021-2022, of which \$59 is tax-deductible. State dues remain the same at \$20, but are not tax-deductible.

*Note from DAW:* Our branch dues remain at \$21. This means DAW branch members will pay a total of \$103 for regular National, State and Branch membership for the 2021-22 membership year.

## DAW Branch Reports

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### Update on Nominations for 2021-2022 Elected Board Positions

*by Joanne Quijano, Branch Nominating Committee*

The Nominating Committee has made progress in identifying candidates for some of the Branch Board positions that will be on the ballot in our upcoming election. And we are continuing to follow leads and suggestions for potential candidates for the remaining Board positions. Our target is to complete the slate for the current Board to review at the April 21<sup>st</sup> Board meeting, then the election process will begin right after that.

However, we still need volunteers for three critical roles! We do not yet have candidates for President, President Elect and Secretary. If you might be interested, would like more information, or know of a branch member who might be interested, please contact anyone on the Nominating Committee. Committee members are Marsha Anderson-Landau, Kathie Hixon, Alicia Jones, Joanne Quijano and Chris Winter.

To see details about the duties of all of the Board positions, please use this link to the Policies & Procedures on our Branch website. [AAUW DAW Branch Governance Documents](#)

We look forward to hearing from you!

### Update on Tech Trek -- STEM 2021 Virtual Camp

*by Deborah Wechsler, Tech Trek Chair 2020-21*

We are continuing with plans for three to four 2021 Virtual Camps scheduled between mid-June and early August. Here is our progress:

- We were approved for 18 campership positions for the 2021 camp. We received 2 nominations from each of our 12 schools, but two of the girls were not able to commit to

attend the camp. Therefore, we will be funding 16 camperships with 10 girls from 2021 and 6 from our 2020 cohort.

- Each campership is \$400, and we do have funding for these 16 girls, thanks to generous donations from companies IGEL and Alima Technologies and our ability to use funds collected for 2020 camp. But we will need funding for the 2022 in-person camp. Thankfully, Robin Halloran stepped up to arrange the highly successful Mangia Mi fundraiser, aided by Liz Williams and Susan Terzuoli. We are within \$3,000 from funding 12 girls for in-person camp in 2022!

You can still get involved. Please let me know if you are interested in helping with any of the following:

1. Help distribute robotics kits to selected girls.
2. **The Virtual camp really needs more coaches!** Please consider this opportunity to engender excitement with girls for their future education. Participate as a Build Coach, Social Coach, or Workshop Coach for one or more camps. You will receive training (4-8 hours) and a monetary stipend. Here are the [descriptions of the coach positions](#), and you can access the [application form here](#). This opportunity is available to non-AAUW members as well!

More details about these opportunities and the virtual camp are available on our website <https://daw-ca.aauw.net/programs/techtrek/>. Please contact me with any questions. Not your thing? I encourage you to forward this information to your relatives or friends who might be interested in volunteering to support girls in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math). Thanks in advance for your patience and support of Tech Trek as we continue to navigate this new world.



## Update on International Women's Day Program

*by Bette Felton, Programs VP*

Our March program on Monday, March 8, was a grand celebration of International Women's Day. The program was a joint effort with the Benicia-Vallejo AAUW branch, and it was a delight to collaborate with another branch that we do not know well. Benicia-Vallejo President Janet Leventhal, and moderator Cynthia Seguin arranged the timing and speakers for a great evening.

A line up of AAUW members discussed efforts world-wide in health, social service, environmental activism and engineering. In addition, to honor women's efforts to make the world a more equitable place, Eleni Kounalakis, Lt. Governor of California, offered opening remarks that were

followed by inspiring stories from AAUW members- Elizabeth Patterson, Claudia Martinez Schwarz, Asha Bajaj and Teresa Cheung. Thanks to Zoom recording, the video can be seen if you [Click Here](#)

## **Lobby Day, March 24<sup>th</sup> – Virtual Meeting Update**

*By Asha Bajaj, Public Policy Chair*

The following is a synopsis of the talking points for Lobby Day with our legislators in Sacramento. We were divided into teams of 4 to talk with each legislator. The team leader first introduced the AAUW organization, our history and our public policy priorities. We then added information about three key bills on the current legislative calendar out of about 30 bills that AAUW is backing this year. The bills we discussed are:

### *Assembly Bill 92, Childcare Family Fees, sponsored by Assembly Member Eloise Gomez-Reyes*

Access to childcare is a challenge to many low-income families requiring them to spend 20% of their annual income on child care. The recommended expense is 7%. This bill will waive family fees using federal funding through Oct 31, 2022. After that, the bill will create an equitable sliding scale for fees in order to help the economic recovery of the state by allowing parents to remain in the workforce once their childcare needs are being met. AAUW is a co-sponsor of this bill.

### *Senate Bill 62, Garment Worker Protection Act, sponsored by Maria Elena Durazo*

SB62 would strengthen protections for garment workers by eliminating the piece rate and reimburse them for hours worked. The bill also expands liability for wage violations, and authorizes the Labor Commissioner's Bureau to investigate and cite brand guarantors.

### *Senate Bill 373, Consumer Debt: Economic Abuse, sponsored by Dave Min*

Economic abuse occurs when a person's financial stability is impaired by another person taking control of their finances or other resources. The abuse may involve coercing them to use credit or their property, withholding credit cards, stealing from or defrauding the individual, or withholding resources such as food, clothing, shelter, etc. These issues affect mainly women in domestic violence cases, seniors in elder abuse, and youth in foster care. This bill prevents collection actions being taken against victims of economic abuse and protects credit ratings of victims.



## Branch Creativity Night!

*by Deborah Wechsler*

We will hold a General Membership meeting on May 6 to finalize the vote on our Executive Board slate for 2021-22. We thought it would be fun to include a [Creativity Night](#) with this event. Here's how it would work:



Image from [tinybuddha.com](http://tinybuddha.com)

1. Branch Creatives **send to Deborah Wechsler, no later than April 29**, an image, writing, or audio/video clip of your creation, along with a sentence about yourself and the creation if possible.
2. Deborah will create a slideshow with your creative submissions. All are encouraged to send something. This is not a competition.
3. After we finalize the vote for the FY22 Executive Board, we will enjoy the show!

Creations can include (but are not limited to):

- Painting (send a .jpg image)
- Photography (send a .jpg image)
- Poetry or prose (send text, preferably in Word)
- Interior Design or Landscape design (take a photo and send the .jpg image)
- Needlework, Beading, Jewelry, Quilting (take a photo and send the .jpg image)
- Cooking or baking (take a photo and send the .jpg image)
- Music (record your piece and send a .mp3 or YouTube video)

## Fundraising – DAW 2021 Garden Tour Turns to Ruth Bancroft Garden

*by Marsha Anderson-Landau & Deborah Wechsler*

We are delighted to announce this year's Garden Tour has an exciting new venue and time.

Our Branch will be collaborating with the world-famous Ruth Bancroft Garden, in Walnut Creek. Garden innovation and education are the hallmarks of this organization - to be enjoyed by our members and their guests. The premise of this 3.5-acre garden is the exceptional development of water conserving plants as well as cutting edge design.

Tickets are \$40 and include refreshments, a self-guided tour brochure with map and current blooms descriptions, and party favor packets for each attendee. Courtesy on-site parking will be available. These particular times are reserved for our DAW branch members and guests who have paid for the tickets. The garden will not be open to the public during these times.

Our sponsor this year will be *Crafts for A Pretty Penny*. A table will be set up where you will be able to order and purchase garden-themed items. This is a local, innovative, cutting-edge signage designing firm. The firm's founder will also be present. Proceeds from both May and July will be donated to our Local Scholarships.

### **Dates**

**May 21 at 5:30 pm**, featuring a special Japanese Ikebana exhibit.

**July 28 and July 29 at 5:30 pm** will feature a special Sculpture Stroll exhibit along with the regular garden tour, displaying their world-famous plantings.

Plan early to attend! Attendance is limited to 120 attendees per event. COVID protocol will be followed. Wear your most comfortable walking shoes! Reservations will be available online on our website, or at East Bay Flower Company, Danville. Look for an email coming soon with a formal announcement and invitation!

### **Recap Fundraising Event – Mangia Mi Dinner on March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

*by Robin Halloran, Susan Terzuoli and Liz Williams, Branch Fund Raising Committee*

Wow! This membership sure likes to eat. We had another fabulous fundraiser. This time our profits went to Tech Trek 2022. We should all be immensely proud of ourselves. **We raised \$2,101.37 for Tech Trek.**

The Fundraising Committee of Susan Terzuoli, Liz Williams and Robin Halloran thank the membership and all our wonderful helpers. We cannot raise these funds without your generous participation.

- ❖ Special thanks go to Deborah Wechsler for creating and managing our spreadsheet of orders. It was a huge job, especially since there was no template for her to follow.
- ❖ Liz Williams confirmed all our orders, another huge job.
- ❖ Susan Terzuoli found and organized all the drivers. Her husband joined in the delivering for a second time. Thank you, Frank.
- ❖ Thank you to our drivers: Susan and Frank Terzuoli, Barbara Welch, Sharon Cohune, Mary Granzotto, Chris Ritter, Tena Gallagher, Bette Felton, Marian Bliss and Robin Halloran.
- ❖ Thanks to Tena Gallagher for double checking our tabulations.

Special thanks go to Peter Cedolini, the owner of Mangia Mi. As always, his dinners were delicious - loved the butter cake. Peter was so well organized, and things proceeded smoothly from start to finish. His crew was on top of cooking our orders and making sure everything was hot and ready to go on time. Please go to Mangia Mi, have dinner, and thank Peter. **We are a devoted and motivated membership. Thank you for everything.**

## DAW Interest Group Happenings

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Our branch has a wide variety of Interest Groups. Joining an Interest Group gives you the opportunity to get to know women in the branch who enjoy the same activities as you do. Some Interest Groups are also open to your significant others. Unfortunately, not all the Interest Groups are meeting due to the pandemic. Be sure to check the newsletter each month for updates about whether a specific group is meeting.

The full list of active and inactive Interest Groups is on our branch website at <https://daw-ca.aauw.net/about/contact/section/>. There you can find details about what each group does, who leads it, and when the group meets. Some Interest Groups are quite popular and have a waiting list. Be sure to add your name to a waiting list if you can't join the group now.

### Interest Groups Highlights

#### *Literature: Daytime, by Laurie Ehrlich*

Looking over the last several years, these are some of the books our AM Literature Group has enjoyed reading:

- The Underground Railroad and The Nickel Boys: A Novel by Colson Whitehead,
- A Man Called Ove by Fredrick Backman,
- Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi,
- A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles,
- The Radium Girls by Kate Moore, and
- Ragtime by E. E. Doctorow.

#### *Literature: Novel Ideas, by Kathy Harkins*

This group rates all their books on a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being the highest number based on the member's personal views on the readings. Below is the list of the top 10 books since the group has been meeting. [CLICK HERE](#) if you want to see the full list of books this group has read.

Date	Book Title	Author	Host	Score
12/15/2015	A Tree Grows in Brooklyn	Betty Smith (classic)	Barbara Welch	8.8
2/20/2018	News of the World	Paulette Giles and Groves Gardner	Judy Lauper	8.7
1/21/2020	The Life We Bury	Allen Eskens	Pat Morris	8.5
10/17/2017	Small Great Things (Fiction-Hardcover)	Jodi Picoult	Holly Sauer	8.5
3/21/2017	Their Eyes were Watching God (Classic)	Zora Neale Horston	Iris Stone	8.5
5/19/2015	Boys in the Boat	Daniel James Brown (non-fiction)	Kathy Harkins	8.4
8/20/2019	Becoming	Michelle Obama	Kathy Harkins	8.4
4/17/2018	A Gentleman in Moscow	Amor Towles	Julie Grisham	8.4
5/16/2017	Last Days of Night (fiction based on actual events)	Graham Moore	Judy Lauper	8.4
9/15/2015	The Invention of Wings	Sue Monk Kidd	Sandy Killoran	8.4

## Interest Groups Currently Meeting

As of March 1, 2021, the following Interest Groups are meeting:

Interest group	Leader to contact
<a href="#">Bridge: Evening</a>	Arlene Barnett
<a href="#">Great Decisions</a> Meeting only on Tuesdays	Tuesday group: Rebecca Bhatt
<a href="#">Literature: Daytime</a>	Laurie Ehrlich
<a href="#">Literature: Evening</a>	Linda Jimerson
<a href="#">Literature: Novel Ideas</a> **This Interest Group is full.	Kathy Harkins
<a href="#">Mah Jongg 2</a> The Tuesday group is meeting; the Monday group is not	Paula Weintrab
<a href="#">Movies: First Friday Films</a> ** This Interest Group is full. Other movie groups are not meeting.	Kathy Harkins

We are looking forward to the end of the pandemic when all Interest Groups can resume full operation.

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## Membership Corner

*by Marsha Anderson Landau, Membership VP*

If you know anyone who may be interested in becoming a member or advertiser, contact me, Marsha Anderson Landau, email: [marsha888@comcast.net](mailto:marsha888@comcast.net), or call (925) 351-8188. I am available to answer any questions and send information to them!

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## Public Policy Corner

*by Asha Bajaj, Public Policy Chair*

**The American Rescue Plan**, which comes just months after a \$900-billion package that lawmakers approved late last year, amounts to one of the biggest government relief efforts in the country's

history. Cleared by the House after passing the Senate on a 50-49 party-line vote, the legislation is more than twice the size of the \$787-billion 2009 American Recovery Act. And it is the latest in a series of such aid packages since last spring that together have provided roughly \$4 trillion in assistance for individuals, businesses, states, and local governments.

Most noticeable to many Americans are:

1. Providing up to \$1,400 in direct payments.
2. Extending \$300 weekly emergency unemployment benefits into early September.
3. Expanded tax credits over the next year for children, childcare and family leave plus spending for renters, food programs and people's utility bills.
4. Sending \$350 billion to state and local governments whose revenue has declined due to COVID.
5. Allocating \$130 billion to help re-open schools and colleges.
6. Allotting \$30 billion to help renters and landlords to weather economic hardship.
7. Devoting \$50 billion for small business assistance.
8. Dedicating \$160 billion for vaccine development distribution and related needs.
9. Expanding the child tax credit up to \$3,600 per child.
10. Expanding premium subsidies for people who buy health insurance on their own instead of through government programs or business employers.

### **Vaccination Update**

President Biden also promised that the vaccine eligibility will become open to all by May 1<sup>st</sup> ; we may be able to enjoy some outdoor gatherings on Independence Day, July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Under the new health order, private gatherings would also be allowed with up to three households, with masking and distancing always required. People who are fully vaccinated could gather in small numbers indoors with others who are fully vaccinated without masks or distancing requirements.

### **Hate Crimes Against Asian-Americans**

Mr. Biden denounced hate and violence against Asian Americans: "It's wrong. It's un-American. And it must stop," said Biden. A coalition of California lawmakers announced their support Monday for a basket of bills designed to address the rise of hate crimes in the state. The push for hate crime legislation is in response to 3,000 incidents of racially motivated hate crimes against Asian Pacific Islander Americans in 2020 nationwide, according to the lawmakers. Many of the victims are in California.

"Our Asian American community has been yelled at, spat on, shoved down and beat up, slashed and disfigured and murdered," explained Assembly Member Rob Bonta, D-Oakland, who is the first Filipino American elected to the state legislature. Bonta was joined by members of the Latino,

Black, Jewish and LGBTQ caucuses in backing bills that would stiffen penalties for those convicted of hate crimes, provide support for victims, enhance training for law enforcement to better identify hate crimes and provide money for stepping up security for targeted ethnic institutions.

“African Americans have been facing this for 400 years in this country,” Sen. Steve Bradford, D-Los Angeles, explained. “If it’s happening there today, it’ll be in your backyard tomorrow.”

### **Re-opening of California Schools: Senate Bill 86**

The legislation, Assembly and Senate bills 86, offers public schools a share of \$2 billion in aid for reopening costs if they resume some level of in-person instruction by the end of March, with decreasing amounts up to a May 15 deadline. An additional \$4.6 billion is aimed at helping address learning loss from remote instruction. The Assembly passed the bill 72-4 after the Senate approved it 36-0.


### **Childcare Subsidy Bill**








AB 1179 proposes a childcare subsidy as a new form of employee benefit. This is not a leave benefit, or a job-protection benefit, but rather a fund to be used for emergency childcare needs. The bill would apply only to the largest employers – those who employ 1,000 or more employees (including the state, its political subdivisions, and its municipalities, to include charter cities), but companies who already provide equivalent benefits would be exempted. The bill also would not apply to workers whose collective bargaining agreements provide similar benefits, to construction industry employees covered by collective bargaining agreements that provide hourly pay of not less than 30% of the state minimum wage, to certain airline employees, and to government retirees who receive state retirement benefits.

*Stay Well: Stay Alert: Stay Engaged!*



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