



Business and
Professional
Women/Upper Keys

April 12, 2023

Honorable James Vernon “Jim” Mooney, Jr.
Florida House of Representatives, District 120
jim.mooney@myfloridahouse.gov

Dear Representative Mooney,

We are writing to share our positions on key issues facing working women in the Upper Keys and urge you to vote “NO” on House Bill 7.

Our organization, the Upper Keys Business & Professional Women (BPW), has worked for more than 50 years to achieve equity for working women in the Florida Keys through advocacy, education, and information. We represent over 100 members in the southernmost region of Florida and the unique issues facing business and professional women on our island chain.

Our statewide organization, the Florida Federation of Business & Professional Women’s Clubs (BPW/FL), has adopted a 2022/2023 public policy platform (www.bpwfl.org/advocacy/) to support and defend American values as they specifically relate to working women’s hopes and dreams for the future.

The Upper Keys chapter supports the BPW/FL state policy platform, including long standing support for women’s health and reproductive healthcare. **We are gravely concerned about House Bill 7, which restricts the ability of women in Florida to make reproductive decisions for ourselves and leaves us with a narrow window to access care. We urge you to reject this bill** and work toward legislation that ensures reproductive choice and full access to reproductive health education and services, including contraception.

As you work to pass bills that benefit your constituents in the Florida Keys, we urge you to reflect upon and refer to the BPW policy platform as a guide to what women want and need to empower us. We would welcome further discussion on this and other issues.

Sincerely,

Jill Kuehnert
President 2022-2024, on behalf of the Board of Directors and Members
Upper Keys Business & Professional Women (BPW)
bpwupperkeys@gmail.com / upperkeysbpw.org

CC: Sheila Barry-Oliver, President BPW/FL; Staff of Rep. Mooney

2022-2023 BPW/FL Policy Platform

www.bpwfl.org/advocacy/

Item 1: Equality for All

BPW/FL members acknowledge the fundamental equality of all persons and are devoted to the defense of their inherent dignity. We believe in fairness and inclusion so that all have the opportunity to reach their fullest potential. We protect our communities and our liberties, ensuring peace, justice, freedom, and humanity. We believe that the rights of women require constant vigilance and a thorough examination of laws to eliminate those that harm women disproportionately. Therefore, BPW/FL supports legislation that calls for equality for all, including but not limited to, passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, which states: “Equality of rights under the law shall not be abridged or denied by the United States or by any state on account of sex.”

Item 2: Economic Equity, Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency

BPW/FL supports legislation which assists women in obtaining pay equity and equal employment opportunities; promotes opportunities for women-owned business; encourages women-owned business to compete at the local, state and federal governmental levels; promotes affordable, quality dependent care to help ensure economic self-sufficiency for women; and, supports social security reform options that benefit women.

Item 3: Safe Workplace

BPW supports legislation that creates a safe workplace; a workplace free from violence, harassment and assault. We support legislative funding and education that will ensure workplaces are free from all forms of violence, harassment and assault.

Item 4: Health Care

BPW/FL supports legislation that ensures reproductive choice and full access to all reproductive health education and services, including prescriptions. We support legislative funding and initiatives for women's health care needs, with special emphasis on heart disease, stroke, lung cancer and breast cancer early detection, treatment and recovery. We support the expansion of affordable care in Florida, recognizing that working women and their families have the largest need for affordable and accessible health care.

Item 5: Environment

BPW/FL supports responsible legislation that ensures clean air, water, soil and energy. We support legislative funding that will ensure the continuation of clean air, water, soil and energy and specific interactions with the environment. We support these environmental concerns as they relate to women's health, wealth and well-being and recognizing the large impact the environment has on them individually and their families.

Item 6: Voting Rights and Access

Free and fair elections are the foundation of our democracy. BPW/FL supports legislation that is aimed at expanding voters' access to the polls, including the expansion of early voting and online voter registration. We also support measures designed to protect the right of all American citizens to vote, in fairly drawn legislative districts, and therefore oppose any legislation that is designed to restrict or dilute voting access for the members of any segment of the population, whether the discrimination is based on race, gender, or disability.