

May 12, 2025

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairs Aderholt and Capito and Ranking Members DeLauro and Baldwin:

The undersigned organizations urge you to provide a minimum of \$32.5 million for the U.S. Department of Labor's Women's Bureau to maintain necessary staffing levels and continue its critical work supporting women's labor force participation.

The Women's Bureau was established by Congress in 1920 with the express directive "to formulate standards and policies which shall promote the welfare of wage-earning women, improve their working conditions, increase their efficiency, and advance their opportunities for profitable employment." And for more than 100 years, the Women's Bureau has done just that through research, policy analysis and grantmaking.

For example, the Women's Bureau administers the Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations (WANTO) grants that help women get into high-paying trades jobs. These grants help America's employers meet rising workforce demand and enjoy strong, bipartisan support from Congress. The agency's National Database of Childcare Prices is the federal government's most comprehensive source of childcare prices at the county level.

Any reduction in staffing for this already small agency will be a step backwards. Now is not the time to abandon efforts to promote the welfare of wage-earning women. Job growth for women has continued to slow. In February, the most recent available data, women gained only 43 percent of new jobs. Women gained only 44 percent of all jobs added in 2024, down from 54 percent in

2023. And for the first time in 20 years, the gender wage gap has widened. In 2023, across all workers in the United States, women were typically paid just 75 cents for every dollar paid to a man – adding up to a difference of \$14,170 over the course of the year.

We know you share our commitment to protecting and promoting good jobs for workers. That work includes ensuring we understand and address the unique barriers women face in the workplace. The Women's Bureau is a key component of this work and of the Labor Department's ongoing fight to put workers first. We urge you to provide a minimum of \$32.5 million for the Women's Bureau to continue this critical mission. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Feit at mfeit@nationalpartnership.org.

Sincerely,

Karen Nussbaum, Women's Bureau Director, 1993-1996

Latifa Lyles, Women's Bureau Director, 2012-2017

Wendy Chun-Hoon, Women's Bureau Director, 2021-2024

A Better Balance

AFL-CIO

All* Above All

American Association of University Women (AAUW)

American Civil Liberties Union

Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network

Center for Advancement of Public Policy

Chicago Women in Trades

Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

Coalition on Human Needs

Equal Rights Advocates

Family Equality

Family Values @ Work

Family Values @ Work Action

Feminist Majority Foundation

Institute for Women's Policy Research

Justice for Migrant Women

Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition

Legal Momentum, The Women's Legal Defense & Education Fund

MomsRising

National Center for Law and Economic Justice

National Council of Jewish Women

National Employment Law Project

National Organization for Women

National Partnership for Women & Families
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
National Women's Law Center Action Fund
National Women's Political Caucus
New Disabled South
Oxfam America
PHI
Shriver Center on Poverty Law
Union for Reform Judaism
Women of Reform Judaism
Women's Rights and Empowerment Network