

THE GENDER EQUITY COALITION

May 14, 2026

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Vice Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-146A, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Collins and Cole, Vice Chair Murray, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As Congress deliberates on Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 appropriations, we, the undersigned members of the **Gender Equity Coalition (GEC)** and our allies, urge you to fund programs that directly support the health, safety, and well-being of women, girls, their families, and their communities at the highest levels possible. As such, we urge you to reject President Trump's FY27 proposed budget, which seeks a 10% cut to non-defense discretionary spending, and instead prioritize investments to critical programs that enrich the lives of women and families, which are essential to building a future where our communities are safe, supported, and have the resources and opportunities not only to meet their basic needs but also to thrive.

The GEC convenes more than 120 organizations to mobilize national grassroots and legislative action on the most pressing gender justice issues, including reproductive freedom and bodily autonomy, racial justice, economic security, immigrant rights, civic engagement, gender-based violence, disability justice, and LGBTQIA+ rights. As organizations committed to intersectional gender and racial justice, we see firsthand the real-world consequences of federal funding decisions on the communities we belong to, stand with, and serve.

We know that robust investment in discretionary programs is necessary to meet the most urgent needs of women, children, and families — and the President's FY27 budget proposal falls far short of what this moment demands.

We write today to be clear about what these tradeoffs would mean for our communities and the far-reaching harm that continued cuts and increased defense spending will cause. Families, especially those in low- and moderate income households, are already struggling—and their economic challenges are exacerbated by the expired ACA premium tax credits, the Trump tariffs, and the historic cuts to Medicaid and SNAP enacted in H.R. 1 to pay for the largest tax cuts to the wealthy and large corporations. [Families are living with the harm caused](#) by those choices.

Enough is enough.

Families & Affordability

Families across the country are already struggling to afford basic needs. Women deserve an economy that works for them; yet Trump's FY27 proposed budget offers no relief from the skyrocketing costs of housing, health care, food, and child care. Instead, it threatens to cut the very programs keeping families afloat.

Child care, in particular, is a cornerstone of the workforce, enabling millions of people to work and support their families. Because caregiving responsibilities [disproportionately fall on women](#), any cuts to child care would have especially harmful consequences for women as caregivers, workers, and family breadwinners. The Trump budget proposal does not prioritize affordability; it actively undermines it and goes against promises made to working families.

Additionally, continued attempts to gut essential programs under the guise of addressing fraud are both misleading and unacceptable. These proposals do not target fraud; instead, they create additional barriers that prevent people from accessing the assistance they need and [restrict funding for essential services](#). Child care and other public benefit programs already have built-in mechanisms to prevent, identify, and adjudicate possible fraud. These existing mechanisms must be fully funded to support program integrity rather than punish the children and families these programs are meant to serve.

Accordingly, we urge the following FY27 funding and policy priorities:

- The Trump FY27 proposed budget cuts the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), slashing the benefit that helps millions of pregnant and postpartum individuals and their children to access fresh fruits and vegetables. **We urge you to fully fund WIC in FY27 to ensure families can access the nutrition they need to grow and thrive.** Congress should maintain its long-held, bipartisan commitment to ensure full funding of the program so that every eligible participant can access WIC services.
- The Trump FY27 proposed budget reduces funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) from \$107.5 billion to \$101.2 billion. **We urge you to reject any further cuts to SNAP.** SNAP is critical in reducing hunger and poverty, improving health outcomes, supporting child development, and helping women and their families navigate periods of economic instability. H.R.1 made historic cuts to SNAP and further cuts to this program will only harm women, children, and families.
- The Trump FY27 proposed budget seeks to eliminate the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). **We request at least \$6.1 billion for LIHEAP in FY27.** While the Trump FY27 budget seeks to eliminate this program, soaring heating costs have forced [one in six U.S. households](#) to fall behind on utility bills. LIHEAP is critical in assisting

these families by reducing the costs associated with home energy bills.

- The Trump FY27 proposed budget requests \$8.8 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), level funding from FY26, which operates as a cut due to inflation and rising costs for families and providers. **We request at least \$17.66 billion for the CCDBG program in FY27 to help grow the supply and availability of care for more families while supporting states in making targeted investments to their child care systems aligned with longer-term needs.** We also urge you to reject any riders that limit states' ability to access this crucial support.
- In FY25, OBBBA gave the biggest funding boost to ICE and CBP in history—\$170 billion. Yet, the Trump FY27 proposed budget requests an additional \$10 billion for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and an additional \$18.5 billion for Customs and Border Protection (CBP). **We urge you to reject additional funding for ICE and CBP without [permanent reforms](#) that will stop ICE and CBP's violence and chaos, reduce their annual funding, and redirect the slush funds they received through OBBBA to programs that address the country's affordability crisis.**

Ongoing Attacks on Women & Democracy

These budget tradeoffs do not stand alone. They are part of a broader set of ongoing attacks that continue to restrict rights and access to care for women and families, and a concerted effort to undermine gender equity in this country.

The SAVE America Act, which the House passed on February 12, 2026, is a direct attack on voting rights that would create massive new barriers to voter registration — specifically targeting women, people of color, trans people, and low-income communities. Voting rights are the foundation of our rights and decisions — on our bodies, our communities, our futures — and we cannot separate attacks on democracy from a budget that would significantly harm people's lives and well-being.

We are also deeply concerned about continued threats to health care access and bodily autonomy. **Accordingly, we urge the following FY27 funding and policy priorities:**

- The Trump FY27 proposed budget seeks to eliminate the Title X program. **We request that you allocate at least \$737 million for Title X funding in FY27.** As the nation's only dedicated federal family planning program, Title X served 2.8 million in 2023 alone. For many patients, especially in rural and underserved communities, Title X health centers are their only source of care. Yet the program has been level funded for over a decade.
- **We urge Congress to eliminate the Hyde Amendment in FY27.** The Hyde Amendment bans insurance coverage of abortion for people who are enrolled in Medicaid and continues to be used as a political bargaining tool in health care policy debates. Limiting health care access for people who receive their health care or coverage through federal

programs targets the very people who struggle to make ends meet, disproportionately impacting Black women and Latinas, single parents, and women who have not completed a high school education. No one should be denied access to abortion simply because they are struggling to make ends meet.

- **We urge Congress to eliminate the Weldon Amendment in FY27.** The Weldon Amendment emboldens providers to allow their personal beliefs, not a patient's best interests, to determine the care a patient receives. The administration has weaponized Weldon to threaten federal funding for states that it finds in violation of the Weldon Amendment. Therefore, we also urge Congress to ensure that none of the appropriated funds can be used by the Department of Health and Human Services to use the Weldon Amendment to intimidate and interfere with state efforts to protect access to abortion.
- **We urge Congress to reinstate the requirement for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to submit biannual reports on the number and treatment of pregnant, postpartum, or nursing individuals being held in detention in the FY27 DHS Appropriations Act.** These reports should be made public on the ICE website. In 2025, more than [1,000 credible reports](#) of rights abuses in immigration detention centers have been identified, some held for months, others deported, all facing dangerous, inhumane treatment. Congress has the power and responsibility to conduct oversight, and demand transparency.

Federal funding decisions have an immediate and tangible impact on people's lives. We ask you to pass full-year FY27 appropriations in a timely manner and reject all harmful and divisive poison pill riders and reject any provisions blocking non-discrimination and diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts.

Through the FY27 appropriations process, Congress has an opportunity to provide the support that women, children, and families need and deserve in this moment. This requires a clear commitment to protecting essential services, reversing harmful cuts, and addressing the real challenges families are facing.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned Members of the Gender Equity Coalition:

9to5

ACCESS REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

All Above All*

Alliance for Girls

American Association of University Women (AAUW)

American Medical Women's Association

Black Women's Health Imperative

Care in Action

Caring Across Generations
Court Accountability Action
Doctors for America
End Rape On Campus
Equal Rights Advocates
Family Values @ Work
Feminist Majority
Girls for Gender Equity
Guttmacher Institute
If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice
In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda
Institute for Women's Policy Research
Just Solutions
Justice and Joy National Collaborative (formerly National Crittenton)
Justice for Migrant Women
Legal Momentum, the Women's Legal Defense & Education Fund
me too. International
Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition
Moms First
MomsRising
Monsoon Asians & Pacific Islanders in Solidarity
National Abortion Federation
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Coalition on Black Civic Participation/Black Women's Roundtable
National Council of Jewish Women
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
National Organization for Women
National Organization of API Ending Sexual Violence
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Women's Law Center
National Women's Political Caucus
Paid Leave for All
Physicians for Reproductive Health
Planned Parenthood Action Fund
Power to Decide
Pregnancy Justice
Reproductive Freedom for All
Survivors Know
Tahirih Justice Center
True North Research
Women's March