



March 18, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell and members of the Senate,

As an organization dedicated to improving the lives of women and families by achieving equality for all women, the National Partnership for Women & Families writes in support of the confirmation of Martin J. Walsh as the next United States Secretary of Labor.

While serving as mayor of Boston, Walsh has proven his commitment to working families by fighting for critical policies such as paid sick time, paid family and medical leave and the \$15 minimum wage. As a national organizational leader in the fight to ensure paid leave and paid sick days for all workers, the National Partnership looks forward to working with the Department of Labor on this issue. Mayor Walsh has also expressed his commitment to closing gender and racial gaps in opportunity and equity. Such a commitment is more urgent than ever as women and communities of color continue to bear the brunt of the pandemic's devastating public health and economic harms.

The Trump Administration's failure to protect workers during the COVID-19 pandemic means that the next Secretary of Labor will need to implement and enforce strong policies to safeguard workers and their families. In particular, it is important to push for gender equitable policies, like paid leave, that will combat the devastating effects of women leaving the workforce over the past year. Based on Mayor Walsh's significant experience working with advocates, experts, and working communities to protect workers from hazardous chemicals and severe injuries in the workplace, we have no doubt that he will be ready to put these plans into action on day one of his tenure.

Once Mayor Walsh is confirmed, we look forward to working with him to ensure that all workers have the support and protections they need to prosper. We hope to work closely with Mayor Walsh on implementing President Biden's Build Back Better plan, which includes plans for a strong care industry infrastructure, racial and gender equity, economic relief to families and small businesses, and stronger policies to address

workplace harassment and discrimination. We urge the Senate to swiftly confirm Mayor Walsh so that we may begin this partnership and move towards a just and inclusive recovery for all.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Michelle McGrain, Director of Congressional Relations (mmcgrain@nationalpartnership.org) and Vasu Reddy, Senior Policy Counsel (vreddy@nationalpartnership.org) at the National Partnership for Women & Families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Moritsugu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a period at the end.

Erika Moritsugu
Vice President, Economic Justice
National Partnership for Women & Families