



April 14, 2025

The Honorable Lori M. Chavez-DeRemer
Secretary of Labor
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC. 20210

Dear Secretary Chavez-DeRemer:

We urge you to affirm your commitment to the work of the Labor Department's Women's Bureau and maintain its current staffing levels.

As you know, the agency was established by statute 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 agency 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.

We are concerned any office closures or reduction in force 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.

Sincerely,

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

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

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

A Better Balance

Access Ready Inc.

American Association of University
Women (AAUW)

American Civil Liberties Union

Asset Building Strategies

Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN)

Better Life Lab at New America

Center for Economic and Policy
Research

Chicago Women in Trades

Children First PA

Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

CMoWIT - Central Missouri Women in
Trades

Coalition on Human Needs

Economic Policy Institute
Equal Rights Advocates

Equity Works

Family Values @ Work
IUOE

Feminist Majority Foundation

IUPAT Local 61

Just Solutions

LCLAA

Legal Momentum

Main Street Alliance

Maine Women's Lobby

MANA, A National Latina Organization
National Center for Law and Economic
Justice

Maternity Care Coalition

MomsRising

National Center for Law and Economic
Justice

National Coalition on Black Civic
Participation/Black Women's
Roundtable

National Council of Jewish Women

National Employment Law Project

National Organization for Women

National Partnership for Women and
Families

National Taskforce on Tradeswomen's
Issues

National Women's Law Center

National Writers Union

Operating Engineers Local 3

PHI

PowHer New York

REAL Women in Trucking, Inc.

Reproductive Freedom For All

Sandkamp Woodworks LLC

Service Employees International Union
(SEIU)

Shriver Center on Poverty Law

The Leadership Conference on Civil and
Human Rights

The Women's Legal Defense and
Education Fund

Women Employed

Women in Non Traditional Employment
Roles

Women's Institute for a Secure
Retirement