



June 16, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Chavez-DeRemer,

As members of the Democratic Women's Caucus, we are outraged by the Trump administration and Department of Labor's ongoing efforts to undermine the rights, protections, and economic security of women, specifically women in the workplace. In our April 2025 letter, we urged you to stand with women workers by protecting the Women's Bureau (the Bureau) and programs and staff that support women in the workforce.<sup>1</sup> That message was either not received or willfully ignored.

Following our letter, the Department of Labor (DOL) terminated more than 20 Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations (WANTO) and Fostering Access, Rights, and Equity (FARE) grants that were appropriated by Congress to increase women's representation in the trades and to address workplace harassment.<sup>2</sup> In addition, the DOL has purged staff and cut resources essential to protecting and advocating for women workers at the Bureau and across the entire DOL, including the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP). Finally, the FY26 DOL's Budget in Brief and the President's budget calls for the elimination of the Women's Bureau, calling it "an ineffective policy office that is a relic of the past."<sup>3</sup> The proposed elimination of the Women's Bureau and termination of grants that support women in the workforce is a total betrayal of women across the country. We call on you to immediately restore the Women's Bureau to its full function and funding, fulfill the terminated grants, and abandon all efforts to eliminate the Bureau.

<sup>1</sup>

Democratic Women's Caucus. (2025, April 14). *Letter to Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer on the Women's Bureau.* <https://democraticwomenscaucus.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democraticwomenscaucus.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/final-dwc-letter-on-the-women%27s-bureau.pdf>

<sup>2</sup>

Mother Jones. (2025, May). *DOGE Killed Dozens of Grants That Supported Women Workers.* <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2025/05/doge-womens-grant-construction-manufacturing-cancelled/>

<sup>3</sup>

U.S. Department of Labor. (2025). *FY 2026 Budget in Brief.* <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/general/budget/2026/FY2026BIB.pdf>

As we emphasized in our April 2025 letter, the Women’s Bureau plays a critical and singular role in promoting the economic security and workplace rights of women. In its 105 years, the Bureau has helped women enter the workforce by addressing the specific issues they face when working, such as access to child care, paid leave, sexual harassment on the job, and more. They also perform and house essential research including the database of child care prices which is now stalled.<sup>4</sup> The Bureau has effectively collaborated across the entire federal government and provided insight to help workplaces adjust to historic and cultural shifts that have shaped women’s experience in the workplace. The Bureau’s work is vital at a time when women—particularly women of color, low-income women, and caregivers—continue to face structural barriers to economic opportunity, wage equity, and safe workplaces. Furthermore, we saw the gender wage gap widen for the first time in decades<sup>5</sup> and women’s participation in the workforce continues to lag behind men’s.<sup>6</sup> It is evident that there is more work to be done to advance women in the workplace, so the claim that the Bureau is a “relic of the past” is not only incorrect, it is completely ignorant to what the data shows and the struggles of working women everywhere.

Furthermore, terminating WANTO and FARE grants that help women enter the trades and be safer at work is despicable. The Trump administration has continuously touted that it is “protecting women,” yet we have only seen it cut funding and support for women across the country. The 20 grants that were terminated would have: created a pathway for women into nontraditional occupations and apprenticeship in the skilled craft trades and advanced manufacturing in Mississippi; helped women enter pre-apprenticeships and be connected to employers in Arkansas; increased women’s participation in apprenticeships in Maryland; helped tradeswomen impacted by gender-based violence across the country, and more. These grants must be restored immediately and as outlined by our esteemed colleagues Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro and Ranking Member Bobby Scott, the DOL does not have the authority to unilaterally decide to cancel grants and subvert the will of Congress.<sup>7</sup>

All of these actions are a direct attack on women and our economy, and we will not stand for it. These actions are also particularly egregious given your recent testimony in the House Appropriations Committee where you essentially assured Members of the Committee that the Women’s Bureau would be safe.<sup>8</sup> We stand ready to work with you to restore and strengthen the Bureau and its resources. Women across the country are counting on federal leadership that

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<sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of Labor, Women’s Bureau. (n.d.). *Child care*. U.S. Department of Labor. <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/wb/topics/featured-childcare>

<sup>5</sup> The Associated Press. (2024, October 16). *Gender wage gap widens for the first time in 20 years*. CBS News. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/wage-gap-between-men-and-women-wides/>

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Chamber of Commerce. (2024, June 26). *Data deep dive: Women in the workforce*. <https://www.uschamber.com/workforce/data-deep-dive-a-decline-of-women-in-the-workforce>

<sup>7</sup> House Committee on Appropriations. (2025, May 29). *Ranking Members DeLauro, Scott demand answers after DOL cancelled women’s apprenticeship programs grants*. <https://democrats-appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/ranking-members-deलाuro-scott-demand-answers-after-dol-cancelled-womens>

<sup>8</sup> Mother Jones. (2025, June). *Trump Wants to Eliminate a 105-Year-Old Office That Supports Women Workers* <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2025/06/womens-bureau-labor-trump-cuts/>

recognizes their value, addresses the challenges they face, fights for their economic security, and keeps their word.

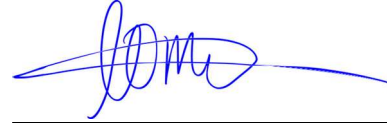
Sincerely,



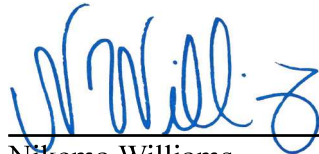
Suzanne Bonamici  
Member  
Democratic Women's Caucus



Chrissy Houlahan  
Chair  
Servicewomen, Women  
Veterans, & Military Families  
Task Force  
Democratic Women's Caucus



Ilhan Omar  
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Democratic Women's Caucus



Nikema Williams  
Chief Whip  
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Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver  
New Member Liaison  
Democratic Women's Caucus



Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



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Chellie Pingree  
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Member of Congress



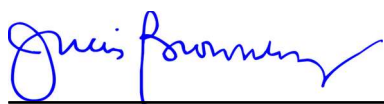
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



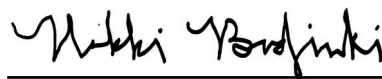
Rashida Tlaib  
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Congressional Hispanic  
Caucus Liaison  
Democratic Women's Caucus



Nikki Budzinski  
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Joyce Beatty  
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Advocacy Organizations  
Liaison  
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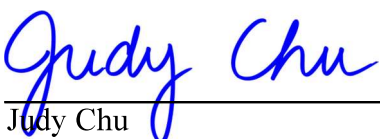
Emilia Strong Sykes  
Vice Chair  
Democratic Women's Caucus



Betty McCollum  
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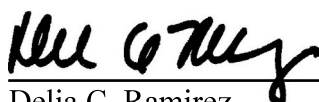
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Member of Congress



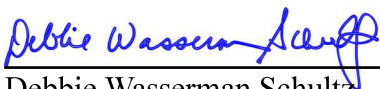
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Task Force  
Democratic Women's Caucus



Jasmine Crockett  
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Communications Task Force  
Democratic Women's Caucus



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Congressional Asian Pacific  
American Caucus Liaison  
Democratic Women's Caucus



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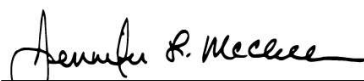
Deborah K. Ross  
Co-Chair  
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Member of Congress



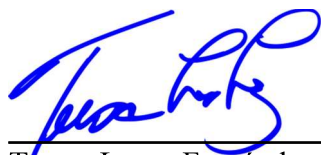
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Member of Congress



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Kelly Morrison  
Co-Chair & Liaison  
Reproductive Health Care  
Task Force  
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Democratic Women's Caucus