



April 14, 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 urge you to stand with women workers by protecting the Department of Labor’s Women’s Bureau and maintaining its current staffing levels—or risk abandoning the only federal agency solely dedicated to advancing the rights and economic opportunity of women workers.

Established by Congress in 1920, the Women’s Bureau (the Bureau) was created 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.”¹ For over a century, it has fulfilled that mission through research, policy, grantmaking, and outreach—improving outcomes for women across the workforce.

The Bureau plays a key role in advancing women in the workforce such as by administering the Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations Technical Assistance (WANTO) Grant Program, which helps recruit, train, and retain women in high-wage, high-skill jobs where they are historically underrepresented, such as in the skilled trades and technical fields. The Bureau also manages the National Database of Child Care Prices, and provides technical assistance for states to expand paid leave programs among other key initiatives. This work not only helps working women and families, it strengthens our economy.

Women gained only 43 percent of new jobs in February, a decline from 54 percent in 2023. And the gender wage gap has widened for the first time in two decades.² These numbers are not just statistics; they reflect growing economic headwinds for women and families that must be

¹ Library of Congress. (n.d.). *The Women's Bureau - Rosie the Riveter: Working Women and World War II*. <https://guides.loc.gov/rosie-the-riveter/womens-bureau>

² Guzman, G., & Kollar, M. (2024, September). *Income in the United States: 2023* (Report No. P60-282). U.S. Census Bureau. <https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/2024/demo/p60-282.pdf>

addressed. Weakening the Bureau by reducing its already limited staffing or closing regional offices would severely undermine its ability to address these persistent and growing economic disparities.

If the Trump administration is serious about bringing more jobs to America, it must ensure that women can access those jobs. That means investing in initiatives that address the structural barriers women face in the workforce—barriers the Women’s Bureau was built to dismantle.

We urge you to preserve current staffing and strengthen the Bureau’s capacity to fulfill its mandate, as Congress intended. The choice before you is clear—and we urge you to stand with women workers.

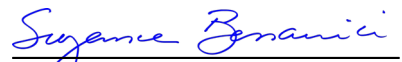
Sincerely,



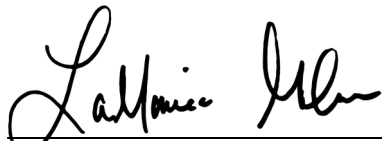
Chrissy Houlahan
Chair
Servicewomen, Women
Veterans,
and Military Families Task
Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



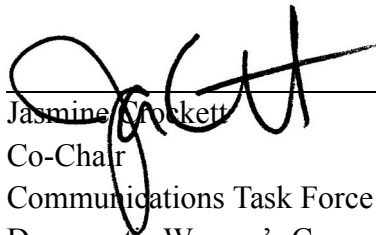
Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
New Member Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



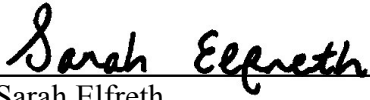
Jasmine Crockett
Co-Chair
Communications Task Force
Democratic Women’s Caucus




Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
National Leaders &
Advocacy Organizations
Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
New Democrat Coalition
Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



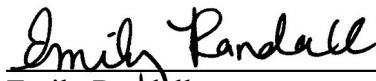
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Becca Balint
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



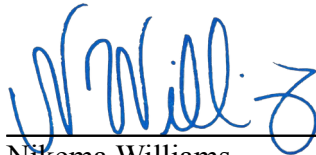
Emily Randall
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Chief Whip
Democratic Women's Caucus



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Mary Gay Scanlon
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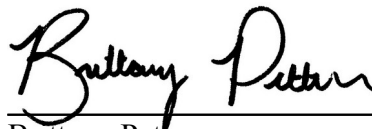
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Emilia Strong Sykes
Vice Chair
Democratic Women's Caucus



Shontel M. Brown
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Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



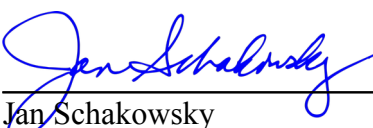
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Melanie Stansbury
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Andrea Salinas
Congressional Hispanic
Caucus Liaison
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Nanette Diaz Barragán
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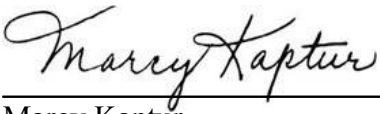
Deborah K. Ross
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Policy Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



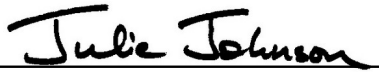
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



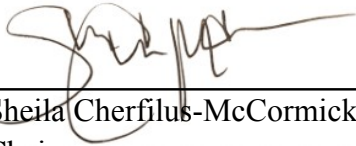
Marcy Kaptur
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Judy Chu
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Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Chair
Global Women's Issues Task
Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



Bonnie Watson Coleman
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Veronica Escobar
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Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



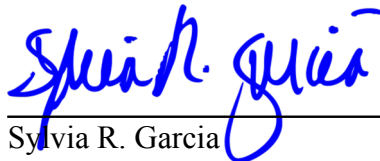
Sarah McBride
Member of Congress




Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



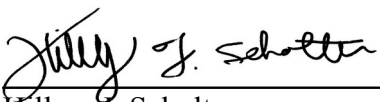
Teresa Leger Fernández
Chair
Democratic Women's Caucus



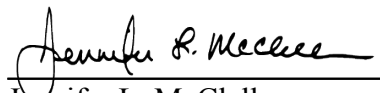
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Hillary J. Scholten
Vice Chair
Democratic Women's Caucus



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress