

# A Stronger California:

Securing Economic Opportunity  
for All Women

WOMEN LOSE  
\$33 BILLION  
IN INCOME BECAUSE OF  
UNEQUAL PAY

SINGLE MOTHERS SPEND  
OF THEIR INCOME ON  
44% CHILD CARE

TWO THIRDS  
OF LOW WAGE  
EARNERS ARE  
WOMEN

1 IN 4  
CALIFORNIANS  
LIVE IN POVERTY



**Women are critical** to a strong and vibrant California economy and play a pivotal role in spurring economic growth in California. Women comprise almost half the workforce of our state and are primary income-earners in many households. They influence the economy as decision-makers for their families, as consumers, and as workers. In fact, women predominate in industry sectors whose growth can be credited for California's recovery from the Great Recession of 2007-2008.

Yet women in California face obstacles to enjoying economically secure lives. California has the eighth largest economy in the world, but the nation's highest poverty rate and it is disproportionately harming women and children. Childcare access is lower in California than in other states. Women are paid less than their male counterparts for the same work in certain jobs. They are also more likely to work in minimum-wage and low-wage jobs, are more likely to live in poverty, and have fewer opportunities to advance in their careers. Unpredictable schedules and lack of leave time leave is taking a toll on too many families.

Ensuring the economic security of all Californian women and their families will benefit all communities including men, children and families who count on policies to meet their basic needs, earn a decent living, and care for their families. This is why advocates, workers, businesses, legislators and communities from across California have come together to promote a comprehensive economic security agenda for California in 2015.

[www.strongercalifornia.org](http://www.strongercalifornia.org)

**#StrongerCA**

A full listing of the bills included in this agenda is on the back. →

**A Stronger California** reflects a visionary collaboration among advocates, legislators, and those we all serve in communities across California. The Agenda has four pillars that frame the policy initiatives critical to the economic security of women and families in this state. The pillars and their corresponding primary legislation:

- Fair Pay and Job Opportunity – Fair Pay Act – SB 358 (Jackson)
- Access to Childcare – \$600 million LWC Childcare Budget Request and Raising Child Care Quality and Accessibility Act – SB 548 (de Leon/Atkins)
- Family Friendly Workplaces – Fair Scheduling Act – AB 357 (Chiu/Weber)
- Building Economic Stability by Addressing Poverty – Repeal Maximum Family Grant – SB 23 (Mitchell) and Increase SSI/SSP – AB 1394 (Brown/Thurmond)

# The 2015 Stronger California Legislative Agenda

## Ensure Fair Pay and Job Opportunities

### Fair Pay

- California Fair Pay Act – SB 358 (Senator Jackson)
- Minimum Wage Increase and Indexing – SB 3 (Senators Leno and Leyva)
- Pay Equity for Women in the Workplace – AB 1017 (Assemblymember Campos)
- Equal Pay for Equal Work Act of 2015 – AB 1354 (Assemblymember Dodd)
- Eliminate Gap from Workers' Compensation – AB 305 (Assemblymember Gonzalez)
- Equal Pay Day – ACR 50 (Assemblymember Gonzalez)

### Job Opportunities and Skills for a 21st Century Workplace

- Earn and Learn Bill – SB 342 (Senator Jackson)
- Self-Sufficiency through Education and GI Bill Exemption Act of 2015 – AB 743 (Assemblymember Eggman)
- Basic Skills Innovation Strategies for the California Community Colleges – AB 770 (Assemblymember Irwin)

## Expand Access to Affordable, Quality Early Childhood Care and Education

- Raising Child Care Quality and Accessibility Act – SB 548 (Senator de León and Assemblymember Atkins)
- Child Care Budget Request – Legislative Women's Caucus
- Child Care Reimbursement Rates for Alternative Payment Providers – AB 188 (Assemblymember Garcia)
- Child Care Alternative Payment Programs and Eligibility – AB 233 (Assemblymember Lopez)

## Support Family Friendly Workplaces

- Fair Scheduling Act – AB 357 (Assemblymembers Chiu and Weber)
- Expand Paid Family Leave – AB 908 (Assemblymember Gomez)
- Paid Family Leave Awareness – Budget Request
- Extend Paid Sick Leave to All Workers – AB 11 (Assemblymember Gonzalez)
- Job Protection for Parents with Child Care Needs – SB 579 (Senator Jackson)
- California Family Rights Act – SB 406 (Senator Jackson)

## Build Economic Security by Addressing Poverty

- Repeal CalWORKs Maximum Family Grant – SB 23 (Principle Author: Senator Mitchell; Senators Liu and Hancock; Assemblymembers Chiu and Chu)
- Earned Income Tax Credit – SB 38 (Senator Liu) and AB 43 (Assemblymember Stone)
- Supplemental Security Benefits – Budget Request
- Supplemental Security (SSI/SSP) Benefits – AB 1394 (Assemblymember Brown)
- Improving Access to CalFresh Employment and Training – SB 521 (Senator Liu)
- Sales Tax Exemption for Diapers – AB 717 (Assemblymember Gonzalez)
- Work Opportunity and Recession Relief Act of 2015 – SB 306 (Senator Hertzberg)