



CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE WOMEN'S CAUCUS

ASSEMBLYMEMBER CECILIA AGUIAR-CURRY, CHAIR | SENATOR CAROLINE MENJIVAR, VICE CHAIR

April 14, 2026

Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Monique Limón
President Pro Tempore, California State
Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable John Laird
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review
Committee
1020 N Street, Room 502
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Robert Rivas
Speaker, California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Jesse Gabriel
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Legislative Women's Caucus Support Prioritizing Funding for Women and Children in the 2026 Budget Act

Dear Governor, Madam President pro Tem, Mr. Speaker, Chairs:

We thank you for your combined efforts to prioritize sustained and expanded investments in the health, safety, and economic stability of women and children across our state. We would like to follow up on our previous request urging you to prioritize child care, women's health, gender-based and domestic violence, and incarcerated women in the coming fiscal year.

We have outlined, in greater detail, which investments are most critical to meeting these needs, totaling a humble request of **\$527.1 million**. We hope this year's

investments can be a continuation of the strong partnership among the Legislative Women's Caucus, Governor Newsom, legislative leaders, and budget chairs in advancing investments that support women and children.

We look forward to seeing the following investments reflected in this year's budget agreement:

Childcare

We urge you to **keep promises made in past budget provisions** to California families regarding child care funding, in this year's budget.

- **\$336 million** to honor the commitment to reach and fund 206,800 new child care spaces by FY '28–29, by including the promised 44,000 slots in this year's budget.
- Provide a timeline to fully fund child care rate reform at the true cost of delivering high-quality care, while accounting for regional economic realities.
- **\$16.5 million** in one-time funding to support Diaper Banks that increase access to diapers and wipes for California families in need.

Women's Health

- **\$5 million** one-time funding for the Center for Reproductive Health, Law and Policy at UCLA Law School, which provides urgent legal services, as well as vital reproductive health data that supports equity advocates and policy innovation.
- **\$5 million** one-time funding for the California Black Women's Collective to support their work in further advancing research, leadership development, and policy innovation that benefit Black women and girls throughout California.
- **\$30 million** one-time funding for the Uncompensated Care Abortion Access Grant Program, which ensures abortion and contraception services are affordable for and accessible to all patients seeking the essential health services across the state, regardless of their ability to pay.
- **\$3 million** to redirect the allocated funding to the UC Menopause Center of Excellence to support the statewide campaign on perimenopause and menopause.

Additionally, in response to H.R. 1's administrative changes to health care and social safety net programs, we urge investments to offset both the CalFresh and Medi-Cal workforce burdens that will hit our counties' eligibility workers. Should we not meet the workload capacity, women and children will be disproportionately impacted and at risk of falling off these essential services. Women make up nearly 70% of those on Medi-Cal, and approximately one in four children in California relies on Medi-Cal for health coverage. We also know that roughly 55% of CalFresh recipients have a child in the home.

Domestic Violence and Gender-Based Violence

Cuts to federal funding of support programs present a life-threatening danger to survivors of domestic violence and gender-based violence. We ask for **\$100 million** in one-time funding to address a shortfall in federal Victims of Crime Act funds for victims' services programs. Such programs serve victims of:

- child abuse;
- elder abuse;
- human trafficking;
- domestic violence; and
- sexual assault.

Our commitment to survivor safety and prevention initiatives must not waver.

Incarcerated Women

Women's prisons and programs continue to be under-resourced and unequal compared to those provided to men. To address these critical needs, we respectfully request the following investments:

- **\$25 million** one-time funding for the RIGHT Grant Program, which supports gender-responsive and trauma-informed care and equity in access to reaching women's prisons for family visitations.
- **\$5.5 million** one-time funding for the Home After Harm Program, expanding the 10-month program that provides healing-focused programming for incarcerated women to be able to safely return home.

- **\$1.1 million** one-time funding for The Menopause Project, which would improve access to menopause education and clinical care for aging incarcerated women.

California's budget reflects our state's values and priorities. Protecting and strengthening investments in women and children is not only compassionate policy—it is sound economic policy that builds long-term stability and opportunity. When we support families today, we help ensure a healthier, more resilient future for California.

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to California families.

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact our consultants, Sulema Landa at Sulema.Landa@asm.ca.gov, or Margaret Hanlon-Gradie at Margaret.Hanlon-Gradie@sen.ca.gov.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Chair
Assemblymember, 4th District



Caroline Menjivar, Vice Chair
Senator, 20th District