

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (AAUW) – TWO MINUTE ACTIVIST

Letter to US House and Senate members: July 2021

As your constituent, I join with the American Association of University Women (AAUW) to call on you to address the nationwide economic, public health and education crises. I urge you to support legislation to enact bold measures from the White House proposals (the [American Jobs Plan](#) and [American Families Plan](#)) and make significant investments that will expand economic growth and security. We must build a society where women and families can not only survive—but thrive.

COVID-19 has infected more than 32 million Americans, taking the lives of almost 600,000 individuals to date. Since the national emergency began last year, our nation has mourned deaths, unemployment and economic instability to a heartbreaking degree. Women have lost more than 5.3 million jobs and account for over half of the net job losses since the start of the crisis. Women of color are disproportionately impacted: in the month of December, for example, Black, Hispanic, and Asian women accounted for all the net job loss. What's more, over half of mothers who left their jobs during the pandemic reportedly did so because their child's school or daycare were closed.

Today, [the percentage of women in the labor force is the lowest it's been in 33 years](#). While job growth has started to improve, it is slow to reach women and mothers. I urge you to ensure that women and families are included in economic recovery with policies that:

- Reform unemployment insurance.
- Create a comprehensive paid family and medical leave program.
- Provide workforce opportunities through job training for in-demand sectors, increasing registered apprenticeships, and offering wraparound services for dislocated workers.
- [Extend the expanded Affordable Care Act premium tax credits in the American Rescue Plan.](#)
- [Expand the child tax credit.](#)
- Increase critical funding to Title I programs in high-poverty schools, and upgrade and build new public schools and child care facilities.
- Create a national partnership with states to provide free universal pre-school for three- and four-year-olds and prioritize high-need areas.
- Address teacher shortages, teacher preparation and teacher diversity, including preparing and developing special education teachers.
- Double the Pell Grant and make Dreamers eligible to receive it.
- Expand access to home- or community-based care, with increased benefits and training for those workers in the care economy.
- Ensure early childhood staff earn a \$15 minimum wage.

The spread of COVID-19 has had a devastating effect across the United States. As women continue to bear a disproportionate burden of the ongoing crises harming our country, they need bold measures now. We cannot afford to wait – the time to act is now. I urge you to enact recovery measures that make it clear: women and families are at the center of a strong economic recovery.

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78 members

Vision: AAUW empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential.

Key Programs

STEM Education – *Triad Tech Savvy, IT Is for Girls, Find Your STEM*
 AAUW READS- Readers Excel Achieve Develop Succeed
 Women in Nontraditional Careers – WINc
 Girls Exploring Tools and Tech - GETT
 National Conference of College Women Student Leaders- NCCWSL
 College/University Partnerships: Bennett, Guilford, UNCG, NCA&T

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 Dudley High School – *Engineering Explorations*
 Guilford Early College
 Grimsley High School – *Girls in STEM*

Awarded: Five Stars in Advancement, Communications & External Relations, Public Policy & Research, Programs, and Governance and Sustainability.

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