

A Stronger Calif♀ernia:

Securing Economic Opportunity
for All Women

2017 Legislative Agenda

Stronger California Advocates Network

About the Stronger Calif♀rnia Agenda:

California is home to millions of families who rely on common sense public policies helping them build assets, succeed in the workplace, and access affordable and quality care for their children. That is why advocates, legislators, and other community members throughout the state stand together in support of A Stronger Calif♀rnia Agenda.

The Stronger Calif♀rnia Agenda has four pillars that frame the policy initiatives critical to the economic security of women and families in this state. It recognizes that women are critical to a strong and vibrant California economy and play a pivotal role in spurring economic growth in California. California is home to 12 percent of the country's women, comprising almost half the workforce in our state and primary income-earners in many households. They influence the economy as decision-makers for their families, as consumers, and as workers. In fact, women workers predominated in industry sectors whose growth is credited for California's recovery from the Great Recession of 2007-2008.

The Stronger Calif♀rnia Agenda provides concrete policy solutions to address the fact that many women and their families in California face obstacles to enjoying economically secure lives. California has the sixth largest economy in the world, but one of the nation's highest poverty rates disproportionately harming women and children. Child care access is lower in California than in other states. Women are paid less than their male counterparts for the same work in virtually every job sector. They are also more likely to work in low-wage jobs and have fewer opportunities to advance in their careers. California's families also suffer without family-friendly work policies that allow women and men to work and care for their families. And in a changed federal landscape, policies that protect immigrant communities and access to reproductive health care are more important than ever.

Ensuring the economic security of California women with common-sense public policies will benefit all communities including men, children and families. Thank you for standing with the Stronger Calif♀rnia Advocates Network in supporting this Agenda. To learn more about this historic effort, see StrongerCalifornia.org. A list of partners in the Stronger Calif♀rnia Advocates Network is on the back page.

Onward,



Noreen Farrell
Executive Director of Equal Rights Advocates
Chair of the Stronger California Advocates Network

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The 2017 Stronger California Advocates Network Agenda

**Included as Legislative Women's Caucus Priority. For full list of Caucus Priorities, see <http://womenscaucus.legislature.ca.gov/>*

Ensure Fair Pay and Job Opportunities

- **AB 1209 - Pay Data Transparency Bill** (*Introduced by Assembly Member Gonzalez Fletcher*)

This bill would require businesses in California with more than 250 employees to publish figures about their gender pay gap on their website and report the data to the State.

- **AB 569 - The Reproductive Health Non Discrimination Act** (*Introduced by Assembly Member Gonzalez Fletcher*)

This bill would combat the growing invasion of women's privacy by making it illegal for employers to fire women for her reproductive health choices. Women have reported being terminated or discriminated against by their employers for conceiving a child through fertility treatments, becoming pregnant without being married, or for simply using birth control.

- ***AB 168 - Employers: Salary Information** (*Introduced by Assembly Member Eggman*)

This bill would prohibit an employer, including state and local government employers, from seeking salary history information about an applicant for employment, except as otherwise provided. The bill would also require an employer, except state and local government employers, upon reasonable request, to provide the pay scale for a position to an applicant for employment.

Expand Access to Affordable, Quality Early Childhood Care and Education

- ***Child Care Budget Request** (*Legislative Women's Caucus*)
- **AB 60 - The Child Care Protections for Working Families Act** (*Introduced by Assembly Member Santiago and Gonzalez Fletcher. Coauthors Assembly Members Garcia, Gomez, McCarty, Rubio, and Thurmond. Coauthor Senator Wiener*)

This bill allows parents earning the minimum wage to keep their affordable child care, so they can continue to work and their children can stay in day care, preschool, or after-school programs. Because of outdated income guidelines, many parents who earn the new minimum wage are no longer eligible for affordable child care if they work full-time. The extra 50 cents an hour has unintentionally caused many families to lose child care.

- ***AB 273 - Unlocking Opportunities for Families Bill** (*Introduced by Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry. Principal Coauthor Assembly Member Caballero. Coauthor Assembly Member Gloria. Coauthor Senator Mendoza*)

This Bill clarifies that English as a Second Language (ESL) and High School Equivalency Certificate (also known as GED) is an acceptable type of training course for families to qualify for child care assistance. This change will empower parents to increase their educational level while supporting their child's healthy development by providing families with greater access to subsidized child care services.

Support Family Friendly Workplaces

- ***SB 63 - New Parent Leave Act** (*Introduced by Senator Jackson*)

Under California Family Rights Act (CFRA), only businesses with 50 or more employees are required to provide parental leave. This bill would provide the right to job-protected parental leave to more workers in California by requiring employers with 20 or more employees to provide up to 12 weeks of job-protected bonding leave to new parents (birth, adoption, or foster). This law applies to workers with at least 12 months of service with the employer, and at least 1,250 hours of service during the previous 12-month period.

Build Economic Security by Addressing Poverty

- **AB 796 - SSI/SSP Increases** (*Introduced by Assembly Members Kalra and Thurmond*)

This bill would reinstate the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for the SSI/SSP benefit (beginning January 1, 2018) and require a maximum aid payment that would increase incrementally until January 1, 2019, when it would be set at 100%.

- **AB 557 Protections for Domestic Violence Survivors on CalWORKs** (*Introduced by Assembly Member Rubio*)

This bill would require a county to waive a CalWORKs program requirement for an applicant or recipient who is a past or present victim of abuse when the program requirement, if not waived, would place the family at risk of harm, unfairly penalize the family, or make it more difficult for the family to escape abuse.

- **AB 10 - Access to Menstrual Hygiene Products in Shelters, Schools & Universities** (*Introduced by Assembly Member Garcia. Coauthors Assembly Members Cooley, Gomez, and Jones-Sawyer. Coauthors Senators Wieckowski and Wiener.*)

This bill would require that school bathrooms offer an adequate supply of free menstrual hygiene supplies in school bathrooms and would require the Department of Housing and Community Development to ensure that an adequate supply of menstrual hygiene supplies are available at all shelters throughout the state.

- **AB 1109 - Caps on Loans to Curb Predatory Lending Practices** (*Introduced by Assembly Member Kalra*)

This bill would cap loans between \$2,500 and \$10,000 at 24% which will help address the growing wealth gap which disproportionately affects women, and in particular, women of color.

- **SB54 - The California Values Act** (*Introduced by Senator De León. Principal Coauthors Senators Atkins, Pan, and Weiner. Principal Coauthors Assembly Members Bonta, Chiu, Cooper, Gomez, Levine, and Reyes.*)

The California Values Act will ensure that California does not use state and local resources to fuel mass deportations and separate families and loved ones. The bill will keep California law enforcement out of painful deportations; bolster confidentiality practices at state agencies so immigrants can continue to successfully interact with our state government; and keep our schools, health facilities and courthouses safe and accessible to all Californians.

- ***AB 480 - CalWORKS: Welfare-to-Work: Necessary Supportive Services** (*Introduced by Assembly Member Gonzalez Fletcher*)

This bill would make technical nonsubstantive changes to existing law which provides for the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program, under which each county provides cash assistance and other benefits to qualified low-income families and individuals. Existing law generally requires a recipient of CalWORKs benefits to participate in welfare-to-work activities as a condition of eligibility for aid. Existing law requires that necessary supportive services be available to participants in welfare-to-work activities, including child care.

The Stronger Calif♀rnia Advocates Network

The Stronger Calif♀rnia Advocates Network is a historic collaboration of advocate coalitions with deep experience working with communities affected by the four pillars of the Stronger Calif♀rnia Agenda. The Network capitalizes on the strengths of our members to advance the economic security of women in California. We seek to promote policy reform in order to meet basic needs and provide better income support, achieve fair pay and working conditions, support workforce development, encourage asset building, and ensure work- family flexibility and access to quality child care. To learn more about this effort, see StrongerCalifornia.org.

9 to 5

ACLU of Northern California
Act for Women & Girls
Alliance for Community Empowerment
American Association of University Women
California Asset Building Coalition
California Domestic Workers Coalition
California Employment Lawyers Association
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice
California Partnership
California Child Care Resource & Referral Network
California Women's Law Center
California Work and Family Coalition
Career Ladders Project
Center for Popular Democracy
Child Care Law Center
Equal Rights Advocates
Legal Aid at Work
Mujeres Unidas y Activas
National Council of Jewish Women
Parent Voices
Raising California Together
Tradeswomen, Inc.
UFCW Western States Council
Voices for Progress
Western Center on Law and Poverty
Women's Foundation of California
YWCA- San Francisco & Marin

For a full list of Network Supporters, please visit StrongerCalifornia.org.

