

# REP. LAUREN UNDERWOOD'S WOMEN'S ECONOMIC AGENDA

“American women are barrier breakers. We have broken down barriers and shattered glass ceilings in education, at work, in the law, the military, and at home. Women are leading in new ways, and it's crucial we ensure their success. My agenda outlines the proactive steps Congress can take to strengthen support for women in health care, education, the workplace, at home, and in retirement. It's good for our economy and it's good for Illinois families.”

## 1 Health Care that Works for Women

*Ensuring that all women have quality, affordable health care*

- Protect coverage for preexisting conditions and essential health benefits like maternity care and contraception by enacting my legislation to protect the Affordable Care Act and ban junk insurance plans.
- Reduce premiums and out-of-pocket costs by passing my legislation: the Health Care Affordability Act, the Chronic Condition Copay Elimination Act, the Primary and Behavioral Health Care Access Act, the Lower Insulin Costs Now Act, and the Veterans Preventive Health Coverage Fairness Act.
- Defend reproductive rights and access to the full range of women's health services by repealing the Hyde Amendment and passing my Access to Contraception Expansion for Veterans Act.

## 2 Education for the Future

*Ensuring women can invest in their futures through education and training*

- Make college more affordable and address the student debt crisis by passing the College Affordability Act and my File Once FAFSA Act.
- Expand STEM education and career training for girls and women.
- Support public school teachers by passing my Teachers are Leaders Act.
- Help communities invest in public schools by enacting my legislation to repeal the cap on State and Local Tax (SALT) deductions.

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## 3 Equality in the Workplace

*Ensuring women have equal opportunity to thrive in the workplace and grow their careers*

- Close the gender pay gap by enacting the Paycheck Fairness Act.
- Stop workplace harassment and discrimination by passing my bipartisan EMPOWER Act.
- Protect pregnant women at their jobs by passing the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act.
- Guarantee equal treatment for women under the law by ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution.

## 4 Empowering Every Family

*Ensuring all families can thrive with access to affordable childcare and paid family leave to care for a new child or sick family member*

- Guarantee paid family, medical, and sick leave for every worker by passing the FAMILY Act and the Healthy Families Act.
- Support women caring for aging parents and family members, and expand job protections under the Family and Medical Leave Act.
- Protect the rights of LGBTQ families by enacting the Equality Act.
- Expand access to high-quality, affordable childcare by passing the Child Care for Working Families Act.

## 5 Financial Stability and a Secure Retirement

*Ensuring that women have economic opportunity and security in retirement and housing*

- Close the retirement savings gender gap by implementing the SECURE Act and passing my Women's Retirement Protection Act.
- Invest in our suburban communities by tackling the housing affordability crisis for both renters and homeowners.
- Defend and expand earned Social Security and Medicare benefits.