



April 7, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We, the leadership of the Democratic Women's Caucus, respectfully urge the Committee on Appropriations to prioritize investments in Fiscal Year 2027 that meaningfully support women and families across every stage of life. These investments will deliver real economic security, broaden access to comprehensive health care, and protect communities across the country. Women deserve an economy that works for them, affordable health care that centers their needs, and safe communities where justice prevails. We urge our Republican colleagues to join us in advancing meaningful results for women and families. Together, we can stand up for the American people and protect the programs and resources that ensure women and families can meet their basic needs and build a secure future.

Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration

Programmatic Requests

- Fully fund Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) for FY27
- Robustly fund Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- \$180 million for WIC's Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program
- \$16 million for WIC's infrastructure needs
- \$50 million in WIC's Management Information System (MIS)
- \$60 million for Firearm Injury and Mortality Prevention Research
- \$1 million for USDA research and extension grants to make agriculture equipment and machinery that is ergonomically designed for use by women widely available

Commerce, Justice, Science

Programmatic Requests

- \$1.15 billion for *Violence Against Women Act* (VAWA) programs administered by the Office on Violence Against Women/Department of Justice
- \$326 million for the STOP Formula Grant Program within VAWA
- \$100 million for the Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP)

- \$100 million for the Rural Grant that provides support services for victims of domestic and sexual violence living in rural and isolated areas
- \$100 million for Legal Assistance to Victims for victims of domestic and sexual violence
- \$100 million for the Transitional Housing program to give victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking a safe place to begin to rebuild their lives
- \$160 million for the Missing and Exploited Children Programs, including the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force program and National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)
- \$40 million for Hate Crime Prevention programs
- \$68 million for VAWA Consolidated Youth and Prevention Programs
- \$488.221 million for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
- \$30 million for the Domestic Violence Hotline
- \$100 million for Rape Crisis Services, Partnerships, and Resources
- \$42 million for the Culturally Specific Services Program
- \$20 million for Violence Against Women Health Initiative
- \$100 million for Rape Prevention and Education (RPE)
- \$500 million for *Family Violence and Prevention Services Act* (FVPSA) programs
- \$23 million for the Youth Violence Initiative

Report Language Requests

- None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to rescind or revise the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission’s final rule on the *Pregnant Workers Fairness Act* published on April 19, 2024, at 29 CFR § 1636.
- None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to rescind or revise the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission’s Guidelines on Discrimination Because of Sex at 29 CFR § 1604.
- None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement any abortion coverage restrictions, including those that impact the following populations: Medicaid, Medicare, and Children’s Health Insurance Program beneficiaries; federal employees and their dependents; Peace Corps volunteers; Native American women, women in federal prisons and detention centers, including those detained for immigration purposes; and low-income women in the District of Columbia through the use of local funds.
- *FACE Act Enforcement.*—The Committee intends for resources to be used to ensure robust enforcement of the *Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act* for the protection of safe access to reproductive health care facilities.
- *EEO-1 Demographic Data Collection.*—The Committee directs the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to use the appropriated funds to collect EEO-1 data consistent with 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-8 and 29 CFR § 1602.
- *Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Investigations.*—The Committee directs the EEOC to use appropriated funds to fully investigate charges that contain allegations of sexual orientation or gender identity-based discrimination or which, in the EEOC’s experience, implicate such discrimination, in accordance with the obligations set forth in 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-5(b) and the Supreme Court’s ruling in *Bostock v. Clayton County*, which held that discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity is discrimination on the basis of

sex. The Committee further directs the EEOC to use appropriated funds to reach cause determinations on all such charges, and to endeavor to eliminate any such alleged unlawful employment practice by informal methods of conference, conciliation, and persuasion, in accordance with the obligations set forth in 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-5(b). The EEOC may not, absent a request for a right to sue letter, administratively close such charges without investigating the allegations, reaching a cause determination, and attempting to conciliate each charge, as required by 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-5(b). The EEOC shall use appropriated funds to prepare and submit a written report to Congress detailing its compliance with the requirements of this bill, including by providing the number of charges that contain allegations of sexual orientation or gender identity or which, in the EEOC's experience, implicate sexual orientation or gender identity-based discrimination, and the number of A, B, C, A2, and SA charges related to sexual orientation or gender identity for each of the last 5 fiscal years under the agency's Priority Charge Handling Procedures. The report shall also include data on how many such charges were administratively closed, mediated, settled, or conciliated, and how many received "reasonable cause" and "no reasonable cause" findings, for each of the last 5 fiscal years.

- *Disparate Impact.*—The Committee directs the EEOC to use appropriated funds to fully investigate charges that contain allegations of disparate impact or which, in the EEOC's experience, implicate disparate impact-based discrimination, in accordance with the obligations set forth in 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-5(b). The Committee directs the EEOC to use appropriated funds to reach cause determinations on all such charges, and to endeavor to eliminate any such alleged unlawful employment practice by informal methods of conference, conciliation, and persuasion, in accordance with the obligations set forth in 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-5(b). The EEOC may not, absent a request for a right to sue letter, administratively close such charges without investigating the allegations, reaching a cause determination, and attempting to conciliate each charge, as required by 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-5(b). The EEOC shall use appropriated funds to prepare and submit a written report to Congress detailing its compliance with the requirements of this bill, including by providing the number of charges that contain allegations of disparate impact or which, in the EEOC's experience, implicate disparate impact-based discrimination, and the number of A, B, C, A2, and SA charges related to disparate impact for each of the last 5 fiscal years under the agency's Priority Charge Handling Procedures. The report shall also include data on how many such charges were administratively closed, mediated, settled, or conciliated, and how many received "reasonable cause" and "no reasonable cause" findings, for each of the last 5 fiscal years.
- *Federal Sector.*—The Committee remains concerned that federal agencies are not complying with requirements in *Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964*, the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, the *Elijah E. Cummings Act of 2020*, and the *Pregnant Workers Fairness Act of 2022*. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission shall use appropriated funds to prepare and submit a written report to Congress detailing federal agencies' compliance with their equal employment opportunity obligations, including to maintain an EEO program; provide reasonable accommodations for workers on the basis of disability, pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions, and religion; and ensure the fair, impartial, and efficient resolution of discrimination complaints.

Defense

Programmatic Requests

- \$5 million to fund a Menopause Research Program within the Department of Defense (DoD) Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP)
- \$45 million for the Department of Defense (DOD) Ovarian Cancer Research Program (OCRP)
- Highest possible funding to support U.S. military justice reforms aimed at preventing sexual harassment and assault throughout all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces and Coast Guard
- \$10 million increase for the Defense Human Resources Activity under Defense-Wide Operations & Maintenance to monitor harmful behavior incidents

Report Language Requests

- *Military Gear.*—The Committee directs DoD to verify servicewomen are protected in combat by implementing policies to provide properly fitting gear for servicewomen across branches.
- *Harmful Behavior Reporting.*—The Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to coordinate with each of the Service Secretaries to adopt a set of standard data analysis and data visualization for the collection, management, analysis, visualization, and reporting of data related to harmful behaviors regarding sexual assault, harassment, domestic abuse, child abuse, alcohol related incidents, and suicide. Such data analysis and visualization standards may be designed to— (1) enable commanders at all levels of command to receive timely, actionable data with consistent metrics, data visualization, and presentation formats and (2) support location, identify patterns over time, and track changes or trends in harmful behavior. The Secretary of Defense is directed to establish a working group to review existing harmful behavior data management systems, identify and share best practices for data collection and analysis, and assess which data elements are not currently captured in existing harmful behavior data management systems.

Homeland Security

Report Language Requests

- *Health of Detained Women in CBP Facilities.*—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, CBP shall provide a briefing to the Committee outlining medical treatment and attention provided to women who are pregnant, nursing, or Postpartum.
- *Pregnant, Postpartum, and Lactating Women.*—ICE is directed to continue providing semiannual reports on the total number of pregnant, postpartum, and lactating women in ICE custody.
- None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement any abortion coverage restrictions, including those that impact the following populations: Medicaid, Medicare, and Children’s Health Insurance Program beneficiaries; federal employees and their dependents; Peace Corps volunteers; Native American women, women in federal prisons and detention centers, including those detained for immigration purposes; and low-income women in the District of Columbia through the use of local funds.

Interior & Environment

Programmatic Requests

- \$20 million for the Salaries and Expense account of the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum
- \$120 million for the Facilities Capital account National Museum of the American Latino
- \$20 million for the Salaries and Expense account of the National Museum of the American Latino
- \$120 million for the Facilities Capital account Smithsonian American Women's History Museum

Report Language Requests

- *Smithsonian American Women's History Museum.*—The committee strongly reaffirms and supports the intent of Congress that the Museum be located on or near the National Mall, to the maximum extent practicable.
- *National Museum of the American Latino.*—The committee strongly reaffirms and supports the intent of Congress that the Museum be located on or near the National Mall, to the maximum extent practicable.
- *Smithsonian Independence.*—The Committee strongly reaffirms Congress's intent that the Smithsonian Institution remain an independent, nonpartisan trust instrumentality of the United States, operating outside the Executive Branch and free from political interference in curatorial direction or control.

Labor, Health & Human Services, and Education

Programmatic Requests

- \$32.426 million for the Department of Labor's Women's Bureau
- \$512 million for the Title X Family Planning Program at the Office of Population Affairs
- \$38.9 million for Pregnant and Postpartum Women's (PPW) Residential Services Grant Program and the State Pilot Program for Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT)
- \$5 million for midwife training under Title VII Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students
- \$8 million to increase the number of Certified Nurse-Midwives through Title VIII Advanced Nursing Education
- Funds to implement the Maternal Health and Pregnancy Outcomes Vision for Everyone (IMPROVE) initiative
- \$12.4 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)
- \$14.27 billion for Head Start, including Early Head Start and Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships
- Investments in workforce development programs and educational programs to ensure all women have equal access to lucrative and fulfilling careers, including in trades
- Investments in workforce development programs and educational programs to ensure all women have equal access to lucrative and fulfilling careers, including in trades
- \$1.44 billion for IDEA Grants for Infants and Families and \$683.5 million for IDEA Preschool Grants

- \$315 million for the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5)
- \$410 million for Family Caregiver Support Services
- \$150 million for the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) Program
- \$24 million Native American Caregiver Support
- \$10 million to expand the Direct Care Workforce Strategies Center
- \$45 million for the Basic Needs Grant under the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) Account
- Robust funding to support Breast Cancer Research, Multiple Sclerosis Research Program, Endometrial Cancer Research, and Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Research
- \$230 million for the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program
- \$2 million for the Maternal and Child Health Bureau within the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
- Robust funding for In Vitro Fertilization research
- Investments in the Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies (RMOMS) program
- \$5 million for a Menopause Research to Action Network to scale and accelerate existing and emerging research evidence and care delivery models into routine clinical practice.
- \$150 million for the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program at the Office of Population Affairs
- \$100 million for the CDC's Surveillance for Emerging Threats to Mothers and Babies Network (SET-NET)
- Highest Possible Funding for National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)
- \$2 million for the Stillbirth Working Group
- \$10 million for child sexual abuse prevention research activities at the CDC National Center for Injury Prevention and Control

Report Language Requests

- None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement any abortion coverage restrictions, including those that impact the following populations: Medicaid, Medicare, and Children's Health Insurance Program beneficiaries; federal employees and their dependents; Peace Corps volunteers; Native American women, women in federal prisons and detention centers, including those detained for immigration purposes; and low-income women in the District of Columbia through the use of local funds.
- *Endometriosis Research.*—The Committee directs funds provided in the Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP) to be used to conduct research in endometriosis. The Committee further encourages DoD to devote additional resources to support targeted research on the role of endocrine-disrupting chemicals in endometriosis, the relationship between endometriosis and cancer, prenatal and epigenetic influences on endometriosis, and the effects of the human microbiome to develop new and innovative treatment methods.
- *Endometriosis Resources.*—The Committee urges the National Institute for Child and Human Development (NICHD) to continue expanding dedicated research on biomarker discovery and validation to help improve the ability to prevent, diagnose, and treat conditions for those with endometriosis. The Committee further encourages NIH to devote additional resources to support targeted research on the role of endocrine-disrupting chemicals in endometriosis, the relationship

between endometriosis and cancer, prenatal and epigenetic influences on endometriosis, and the role of the human microbiome in developing new and innovative treatment methods.

- *Crisis Nurseries.*— Maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity are more likely to occur in the postpartum period with close to 70 percent of women experiencing a moderate to major complication. The Committee believes that crisis nurseries are a lifeline for our nation’s most vulnerable families to support maternal and infant health. Crisis nurseries provide a vital family preservation service to keep families together in crisis. They support children and mothers by providing emergency child care and direct care services for infants and children, when a parent experiences a crisis. The Committee provides \$3,000,000 for a demonstration project to support maternal and infant health through access to crisis nursery services operated by existing crisis nursery providers. The Committee directs HRSA to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, the geographical distribution of existing crisis nursery providers, emphasizing geographic areas with the greatest need, such as maternal care deserts, rural communities, and communities with the highest maternal and infant mortality rates. The Committee requests a report within 180 days after the passage of this Act on the status of the efforts to fund crisis nurseries to support maternal and infant health by the agency.
- *Intimate Partner Violence.*—The Committee maintains not less than \$2,000,000 for “Addressing Intimate Partner Violence and Project Catalyst” and clarifies that funds support structured statewide implementation, workforce training, and measurable accountability to ensure health centers can effectively respond to the long-term health and safety impacts of IPV. The Committee encourages HRSA to provide a briefing within 120 days of enactment outlining participating states, implementation benchmarks, and use of funds.
- *Violence Against Women Act Implementation.*—The Committee recommendation includes \$7,000,000 to implement sections 503 and 504 of the *Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022* (P.L. 117-103, Division W) that direct a review of practices relating to medical forensic examinations and support the availability of medical forensic examination services for survivors of sexual assault. This sum funds grants to States and Indian Tribes to identify areas for improvement in health care delivery systems providing forensic examinations to survivors of sexual assault, a national report on sexual assault services in our nation’s health system, and an online public map of availability of sexual assault forensic examinations.
- *Title IX Enforcement.*—The Committee directs the Office of Civil Rights at the Department of Education to fulfill its duties under *Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972* (Title IX) by swiftly investigating and equitably resolving complaints of sexual violence and other sex discrimination in education.
- None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to finalize or implement the following regulations: RIN 1205-AC21, “Prohibiting Illegal Discrimination in Registered Apprenticeship Programs”; RIN 1235-AA46, “Employee or Independent Contractor Status Under the Fair Labor Standards Act, Family and Medical Leave Act, and Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act”; RIN 1235-AA55, “Application of the Fair Labor Standards Act to Domestic Service.”

Military Construction & Veterans Affairs

Programmatic Requests

- Increase funding by at least \$190 million above the former President's budget request for women veteran programming, like Women Veterans Peer Support Specialists
- Robust funding for Veteran Sexual Assault/Harassment Support

Report Language Requests

- *Endometriosis.*—The Committee directs the Department to ensure its research program adequately addresses the unique needs and concerns of veterans with endometriosis. The Committee further directs the VA to prioritize endometriosis research to expand basic, clinical, and translational research into the mechanics of endometriosis, identify early diagnostic markets, and develop new treatment methods.

National Security & Department of State

Programmatic Requests

- \$250 million to combat Gender-Based Violence
- \$150 million for Women, Peace, and Security
- \$30 million to combat Child Marriage
- \$200 million for Women's Economic Empowerment programs within the Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) Initiative
- \$50 million for the Madeleine K. Albright Women's Leadership Program
- \$5 million to combat Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting (FGM/C)
- Reinstate funding for the Office of Global Women's Issues at the Department of State
- \$1.96 billion Global Health Programs to support international family planning and reproductive health funding
- \$145 million for the United Nations Population Fund

Report Language Requests

- None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement any abortion coverage restrictions, including those that impact the following populations: Medicaid, Medicare, and Children's Health Insurance Program beneficiaries; federal employees and their dependents; Peace Corps volunteers; Native American women, women in federal prisons and detention centers, including those detained for immigration purposes; and low-income women in the District of Columbia through the use of local funds.
- *Staffing for Global Women's Issues.*—The Committee supports the Secretary's continued work to fully integrate the rights of women and girls into U.S. foreign policy and programming. Sufficient staffing is required to carry out the requirements of the *Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2017*, the *Women's Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Act of 2018*, and other congressional mandates. The Committee provides funding under the Diplomatic Programs account to support staff dedicated to carrying out this work.
- *Adolescent Girls.*—The Committee directs the Secretary to submit to the relevant committees, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, a report on the actions taken over the previous 12 months to: (1) reduce the incidence of child, early, and forced marriage and female

genital mutilation and cutting; (2) address the needs of already married and adolescent girls; (3) promote equal access to education for girls; (4) ensure protection of adolescent girls in humanitarian response; (5) address the impacts of food insecurity on adolescent girls; and (6) train relevant staff on the specific challenges and needs of adolescent girls.

- *Violence in humanitarian crises.*—The Committee remains concerned about the alarming rates of violence against women and girls in humanitarian crises and directs continued funding to prevent such violence. The Committee directs the Secretary, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, to update the report required under this heading in House Report 118-146 on the steps taken to address violence against women and girls in humanitarian emergencies.
- *2X Women’s Initiative.*—The Committee supports the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation’s efforts to advance the 2X initiative and support women’s economic empowerment and entrepreneurship. Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Committee directs the Chief Executive Officer of the Development Finance Corporation to brief the appropriate committees on DFC’s efforts with respect to the 2X Women’s Initiative.

Transportation, Housing, & Urban Development

Report Language Requests

- None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be made available to fund an anti-abortion center, also known as a Crisis Pregnancy Center, that purposely misleads or attempts to coerce pregnant individuals by advertising and offering counseling and medical information regarding pregnancy and pregnancy options, but does not provide individuals with comprehensive, evidence-based, medically accurate information about their health care options, including abortion.
- *Gaps in Traffic Injuries Report.*—The Committee appreciates the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)’s work to decrease the gap in fatal crash outcomes between men and women. The Committee directs NHTSA to submit a report to Congress on the progress relating to the use of advanced female crash test dummies, including THOR-05F and WorldSID-05F, in the New Car Assessment Program (NCAP) crash tests within 90 days of enactment of this Act.

We encourage the Committee to join us in advancing these and other critical investments so that all women have equitable access to the resources, pathways, and stability necessary to thrive in our economy and society. These priorities represent only a portion of the federal support required for women in FY27, and we remain committed to championing policies that enrich the lives of women and families across the country.

Sincerely,

Teresa Leger Fernández
Chair
Democratic Women's Caucus

Hillary J. Scholten
Vice Chair
Democratic Women's Caucus

Emilia Strong Sykes
Vice Chair
Democratic Women's Caucus

Sydney Kamlager Dove
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