



April 29, 2025

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

As members of the Democratic Women's Caucus, we are outraged by your administration's proposals to "get women to have more babies" while simultaneously dismantling the programs and services that allow women to thrive and grow their families, rejecting care policies along the way.¹ We write not only as lawmakers, but also as women and mothers who have lived these struggles. Many of us have raised children while working full-time, struggled to find and afford child care, navigated high-risk pregnancies, and fought for paid leave and affordable health care. If you are serious about supporting women and families, we urge you to rescind these proposals and invest in policies that actually meet the needs of women and working families.

Your administration's reported proposals are not only ineffective and out of step with reality, but they also fail to seriously address the challenges of motherhood. It is estimated parents spend over \$20,000 in the first year of a baby's life.² A \$5,000 baby bonus could help families—but mothers deserve support to care for their families, not pressure to grow them. And restricting those benefits to only heterosexual couples would callously harm parents and babies. Many families would like to have more children but feel like they can't afford it due to the high cost of child care, lack of paid leave, stagnant wages, and overall high cost of living³; thus, a one-time payment of \$5,000 or a medal will not address these issues. Second, awarding a "National Medal of Motherhood" is taken directly out of the playbook of authoritarian regimes designed to control women and restrict how families live— it's appalling.

Lastly, pushing natural fertility and menstrual cycle education as a path to conception is not only deeply offensive—it completely disregards the realities of women living with endometriosis, infertility, and other serious reproductive health challenges. Your proposals ignore the intersectional economic pressures and health challenges women and families face. None of these

¹ Tavernise, S. (2025, April 21). *Trump's team considers pro-natalist policies to boost U.S. birthrate*. *The New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/21/us/politics/trump-birthrate-proposals.html>

² Anwar, J. (2024, March 21). *Baby essentials more expensive than ever: How some moms are lowering those costs*. *WCPO*. <https://www.wcpo.com/money/consumer/dont-waste-your-money/baby-essentials-more-expensive-than-ever-how-some-moms-are-lowering-those-costs>

³ Matthews, H. (2023, October 19). *I would love to have a second kid, but I simply can't afford childcare*. *Vogue*. [https://www.vogue.com/article/cost-of-childcare-one-child-versus-two​;contentReference\[oaicite:1\]{index=1}](https://www.vogue.com/article/cost-of-childcare-one-child-versus-two​;contentReference[oaicite:1]{index=1})

proposals offer real, lasting solutions to the soaring costs of raising a family, the challenges many women face in conceiving or carrying a pregnancy, or the very real dangers of childbirth.

Even more appalling is that while your administration explores hollow incentives for childbirth, you've simultaneously worked to dismantle the very systems that help women and families. You've cut maternal and child health programs and proposed gutting Medicaid, a program that covers more than 40% of all births in the United States—jeopardizing care for mothers and babies. You have fired key staff and cut programs dedicated to helping women and families, including maternal health and fertility research at the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC). You are proposing to defund Head Start, a critical program for families who otherwise could not afford child care. You have frozen \$65 million in Title X funding, threatening access to family planning, cancer screenings, and STI testing. You call yourself the 'fertility President,' yet your allies pushed the *Life at Conception Act*, a bill backed by over 130 House Republicans, that could ban IVF entirely. You've thrown our economy into chaos, making everyday essentials more expensive and making family budgeting nearly impossible. This is not a "pro-family" agenda.

Furthermore, since your administration failed to seek input from those most impacted by your proposals, we urge you to work to pass the following policy recommendations that are widely supported by American women and families—and backed by evidence as effective in improving the lives of women and children. These include:

- **Paid family and medical leave**, so parents can care for their newborn and family members.
- **Access to affordable, high-quality child care**, so parents—especially mothers—have the choice to stay in the workforce while their child is well cared for.
- **Comprehensive maternal health care**, including prenatal, postpartum, and mental health services, with particular focus on addressing racial disparities and reducing maternal mortality.
- **Robust investment in reproductive and fertility health research**, to ensure that individuals and families have access to the best science and care when planning or growing their families.
- **Expanded access to affordable health care**, including Medicaid, reproductive care and contraception, without stigma or barriers.
- **Stronger workplace protections for pregnant and caregiving workers**, so no one risks their job for starting or supporting their family.
- **Tax policies that actually ease the cost of raising children including a permanent expanded Child Tax Credit** for working and middle-class parents.
- **Support for all types of families**, including single parents, LGBTQ+ families, blended families, and adoptive or foster parents—because every family deserves dignity and respect.

We are committed to building a country where every woman and every family has the freedom—and the resources—to decide if, when, and how to grow their family. Women are not mere vessels for childbirth as contemplated in *The Handmaid's Tale*. We urge you to restore funding and resources to the critical programs and services that help women and families that you have

destroyed, and pursue the policy proposals outlined above that truly provide the support women and families need.

We know what it takes to raise, advocate for, and contribute to strong, healthy, loving families—because we’ve done it. And we will continue to fight for policies that trust women, support families, and put power where it belongs: in the hands of women and families.

Sincerely,



Teresa Leger Fernández
Chair
Democratic Women's Caucus



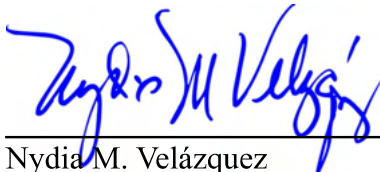
Gwen S. Moore
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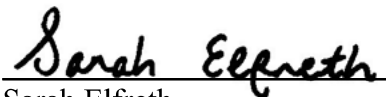
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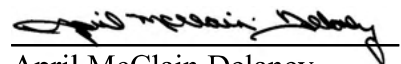
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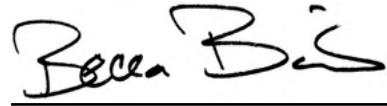
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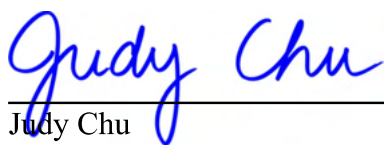
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Jan Schakowsky
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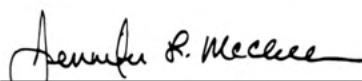
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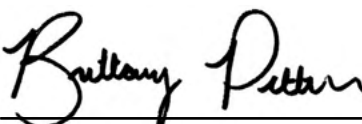
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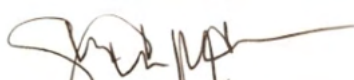
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