

# #NCGA POLICIES ARE TO THE DETRIMENT—NOT BENEFIT—OF WOMEN

## Current economic and family picture for #NCWomen

- Nearly 1 in 5 women live in poverty and more than 1 in 5 women aged 18 to 64 lack health insurance.
- Over 40 percent of working women in the state are their families' primary breadwinners.
- Women in the state still only earn, on average, 83 percent of what men earn for the same work.
- Women are more likely than men to be in part-time employment, work that usually lacks insurance benefits or work supports like paid sick leave.
- Women continue to have a higher unemployment rate than men, and women make up more than half of all North Carolinians facing long-term unemployment.
- Economic disparities are even larger for women of color who, on average, have lower median household income and higher poverty rates, for example, than white women.

## Cutting Off Unemployment Benefits Hits Women Hard Because They Have Elevated Rates of Joblessness

- In February, legislative leadership ushered through a radical restructuring of the state's unemployment insurance system by permanently cutting maximum benefits. Legislators also rejected more than \$700 million in federal aid for benefits for the long-term unemployed, stopping this aid after July 1, 2013.
- In addition, they eliminated the family hardship provision as a reason to qualify for benefits; a provision used by people (mostly women) unable to work due to their care-giving responsibilities.

## Robin Hood in Reverse: Women Have A Lot to Lose Under Current Tax "Reform" Proposals

- The House and Senate tax plans will mean a huge revenue loss for education, the health and well-being of women and children, and our communities. Services benefiting women have already absorbed major cuts and can't take more.
- Even prior to the tax plans, lawmakers axed the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)—an essential tool that puts more money back in the pockets of hard-working, low-income women. There is a disproportionate impact on women because many working families are now being led by single mothers or women who are primary breadwinners; the 2010 median income for families led by single women was \$20,393.
- The House and Senate included their tax plans in their budget proposals, eliminating services like the Displaced Homemaker Program, which provides job counseling/placement and support services to homemakers who are displaced, mainly women, across the state.

## Cuts to public education = Cuts to North Carolina's Ability to Prosper

- Since the 2008 fiscal year, state funding for public schools have been cut by more than \$1.3 billion.
- Women make up the lion's share of teachers and teaching assistants, and proposed budget cuts could create further unemployment for women and smaller paychecks for those still with jobs.
- Fewer dollars for state investments could also mean fewer NC Pre-K slots, cutting off a vital educational resource for at-risk children. Economic disparities are most pronounced among children, with children of color experiencing 2.5 to 3 times the poverty rate, on average, than white children.

## Restricting Women's Access to Health Care

- In North Carolina, 23 percent of women aged 15-44 are uninsured.
- The House passed a bill this session that would strip city and county employees of comprehensive health insurance and deny full reproductive health care coverage to any woman who buys health insurance through the state health care exchange--coverage offered in almost 90 percent of private health insurance plans. Accessing health insurance that provides this full coverage may be unaffordable for many women.
- The Senate budget denies low-income pregnant women between 133 percent and 185 percent of the poverty level Medicaid coverage for prenatal care.
- If the NC Legislature had chosen to expand Medicaid, paid for and provided through the Affordable Care Act, more than 200,000 more women in North Carolina would have been insured.
- The House and Senate version of the budget both divert \$250,000 in funding away from comprehensive health care programs to crisis pregnancy centers, organizations that provide biased, inaccurate information to women seeking pregnancy-related information. Access to a full range of comprehensive health care programs is critical to women's economic security.

## Quick Facts: NC Women Fare Far Worse Than Men Across Several Indicators

- A majority of job gains have gone to men during the recovery even though women have higher levels of education. Not only are men outpacing women in landing jobs, men are also out-earning women at every educational level.
- Women comprise more than half of minimum wage workers in the state. And, the ten largest occupations paying under \$10.10 per hour—or just above minimum wage—are majority women nationwide.
- Single women with children are more likely to live in poverty than any other family type.

Lillian's List	NAACP WIN	NARAL Pro-Choice NC	NC Women United
NC Women Matter	NC National Organization for Women	Planned Parenthood Central NC	
Women AdvanCe	League of Women Voters NC	NC Justice Center	
AAUW NC	Democracy NC	North Carolina Federation of Business & Professional Women	
Planned Parenthood Health Systems	Politica NC	Triangle Older Women's League	
Trust Women NC	Women's Forum of NC		