

# WOMEN OF COLOR POLICY NETWORK



## FEDERAL POLICY AGENDA FOR THE 112<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS

The Women of Color Policy Network at New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service works with elected officials, researchers and community advocates to ensure that the voices and concerns of women of color, their families and communities are reflected in public policies at the local, state and federal levels.

Our policy advocacy efforts focus on using original research and analysis to generate strategies and solutions to relieve disparity and strengthen families and communities. The following is a brief overview of the Network's policy priorities for the 112th Congress:

### ECONOMIC SECURITY

- Increase funding to job creation programs that reduce unemployment, particularly in low-income communities and communities of color.
- Create quality jobs that provide paid leave and paid sick days, opportunities for career advancement, and a living wage.
- Strengthen the safety net, including re-authorizing TANF, fully funding and supporting job training and education opportunities, and preserving social security benefits.
- Increase funding for Child Care Subsidies, expand the Earned Income Tax Credit and refundable child care and dependent tax credits, and expand the savings infrastructure.

### SOCIAL EQUITY

- Pass the Paycheck Fairness Act to increase accountability and transparency for businesses and employers.
- Protect reproductive rights, promote comprehensive reproductive choices, and increase funding for community health centers and reproductive health programs.
- Address and minimize health disparities through increased funding for minority health research and data collection by race and ethnicity.
- Pass the Environmental Justice Act to promote information gathering and protect low-income communities and communities of color from harmful environmental pollutants.

### IMMIGRATION

- Pass comprehensive federal immigration reform that includes a clear and permanent path to citizenship. Legislation should also include provisions that take into consideration the unique and distinct needs of immigrant women and children, including:
  - The Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act to provide a pathway to citizenship for young adults.
  - The Protect our Workers from Exploitation and Retaliation (POWER) Act and the Agricultural Job Opportunities, Benefits, and Security (AgJOBS) Act.
  - The Uniting Families Act to allow citizens to sponsor their same-sex partners.

To learn more about our policy priorities and efforts, please contact the Women of Color Policy Network, NYU Wagner at [wagner.wocpn@nyu.edu](mailto:wagner.wocpn@nyu.edu) or 212.998.7511.