

Women Leaving the Workforce Due to Caregiving Demands Costs Trillions in Economic Growth

We cannot fully recover from this historic pandemic without investing in care economy policies that support the US workforce - especially working women. A strong economy must have a strong care infrastructure that includes childcare, paid leave and home and community-based care for older American and people with disabilities.



Investing \$77.5 billion per year would support over two million new jobs

- Annually, a \$77.5 billion investment in new jobs translates into \$220 billion in new economic activity.



Economists say the economy may be prevented from growing by \$30 trillion due to women leaving the workforce.



33 year low of women working (especially among Black & Latinx women) due to COVID-19

10 million mothers were not working in January 2021, 1.4 million fewer compared to a year before.

When the pandemic began, the number of working mothers declined by 21% while the fathers dropped by 14.7%. In December 2020, more men returned to work than women.

Women make up 54.4% of the 9.5 million who have lost jobs during the pandemic. The fields of childcare, restaurants and retail, dominated by women, have been some of the hardest hit sectors.



Economists are warning that a 'lost generation' of working parents may never bounce back.



1 in 4 women are thinking of downshifting their careers or leaving the workforce altogether, especially among mothers without pre-pandemic support and childcare.

- 40% of women said they stopped working or reduced their hours because of care-taking demands since the start of the pandemic.



Lack of child care is now the third-most cited reason for not working, up from fifth place at the start of the pandemic.

- Working mothers also left the workforce faster than women without children, working dads and men without children.



A permanent paid family and medical leave program will strengthen economic growth

Women's labor contributes \$7.6 billion to the national GDP each year. Paid leave and care policies have the potential to help the economy grow as much as 5% by bringing women's labor force participation rates in the United States up to levels in other countries.

Mothers are 20-50% less likely to separate from the labor force five years after a birth if they have access to paid leave.



Nearly one in five net new jobs over the next decade will be home health aides or personal care aides.