



There are too many barriers holding Minnesota women back. Despite some recent progress at both the state and federal level, there is more work to do when it comes to the economic security of women in Minnesota.

From wages and benefits to work-family balance to caring for children and families, we are calling on policymakers in Minnesota to address the challenges we face - which will improve the lives not only of women but of all Minnesotans.

The Minnesota Coalition for Women's Economic Security is a broad (and growing) coalition of organizations working together on the following principles:

- Reduce barriers in order to build a stronger economic foundation for all of us.
- Provide equal opportunities and pay for women who make up half of the state's workforce.
- Help women and men balance family and work responsibilities to reduce costly turnover and increase productivity.
- Pay women the same as men for comparable work and living wages to help Minnesota families that depend on women's income to achieve and maintain the middle class American dream.
- Help women and men plan and save for their retirement to improve the financial security of older Minnesotans.
- Reduce the clustering of women in certain job sectors, which increases the talent pool and maximizes opportunities for both employee and employer efficiency and productivity.
- Provide paid leave in order to produce positive outcomes for employers and employees, including increased worker productivity, reduced spread of illness, and more economic stability.

With your involvement and support, we can take significant action in the 2014 session to bring down economic barriers for women and build a more productive, stronger Minnesota together.



JOIN THE COALITION

Date: _____

Name of organization/individual: _____

Name of authorized representative: _____

Address of organization/individual: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

How many people are members of your organization? _____

My organization/I can:

- Identify people to share stories about women's economic security.
- Call legislators
- Mobilize our members
- Promote the Women's Economic Security Act through
 - Social Media
 - E-mail
- Write a letter to the editor or an op-ed

On the reverse side, please identify bills your organization strongly supports and/or is willing to prepare and give testimony on.

This document serves as verification that the above organization has authorized the public use of its name on the coalition website and in conjunction with coalition materials. While no organization is likely to take a stand on all of the bills in the Women's Economic Security Act, coalition members agree they will not actively work in opposition to any of these bills.

Please mail or email a copy of this form to the Minnesota Coalition for the Economic Security of Women. If you have any questions, or need assistance, please contact Erin Parrish at 651-228-0338 or erin@mnwomen.org.

Founding members of the Minnesota Coalition for Women's Economic Security



Minnesota Women's Economic Security Act of 2014

SUPPORT	TESTIMONY	BILL
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Close the gender pay gap:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require private businesses that contract with the state to report on pay equity within their workforce Protect employees from retaliation for discussion of compensation
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Increase income for working women and their families:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the minimum wage to \$9.50
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Expand access to high-quality, affordable childcare:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove the \$5,000 cap on early learning scholarships Eliminate the waiting list for the Basic Sliding Fee program to serve all eligible families Increase reimbursement rates for child care providers participating in the Child Care Assistance Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Expand family and sick leave for working families:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide paid sick and safe leave, allowing workers to earn 1 hour of paid leave for every 30 hours worked Expand unpaid leave under the Minnesota Parental Leave Act from 6 to 12 weeks Add pregnancy to the Minnesota Parental Leave Act
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Protect women from discrimination in the workplace:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add “family caregiver status” and “familial status to the list of protected classes for employment purposes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ex. Prevent employers from discriminating against a woman with children or those with elder care responsibilities in hiring, firing, promotion, or compensation decisions Increase enforcement of existing workplace protections Require employers to provide reasonable accommodations for pregnant employees such as more frequent breaks or transfer to a less strenuous position
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Enhance protections for victims of violence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking to use paid leave to obtain services Improve housing protections for victims of violence Expand unemployment insurance eligibility currently available to victims of domestic violence to include victims of stalking and sexual assault
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Encourage women in non-traditional, high-wage jobs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide incentives within DEED workforce development programs to integrate women into high-skill, high-wage, nontraditional jobs
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Help women-owned small businesses succeed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a pilot project for women entrepreneur’s business development in traditionally male-dominated and/or technology industries
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Help older women be economically secure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a Minnesota Retirement Savings Plan allowing small private sector employees without an employer-sponsored retirement plan to pool into a state-managed program Protect spouse caregivers from financial hardship by updating Minnesota’s Medicaid spousal impoverishment law