Women Working Ahead: An Economic Opportunity Agenda for Georgia Women

Presented by Melissa Johnson
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Women are Key to Georgia’s Economy

- Women are the majority of Georgia’s adults
- Women are nearly half the state’s workforce
- In more than half of Georgia households with children, women earn at least 40 percent of family earnings
To maximize the economic potential of Georgia we must maximize the economic potential of women
Georgia could add $14.4 Billion to its economy if working women earned the same as comparable men.
Poverty for working women could fall by nearly **HALF** if women earned pay equal to comparable men.
GBPI Economic Opportunity Agenda

• Women are HEALTHY enough to work
  – Close Georgia’s coverage gap by expanding Medicaid
• Mothers have access to QUALITY CHILD CARE so they can work
  – Expand Child Care Assistance
• WORK PAYS for Women
  – Enact the Georgia Work Credit
  – Raise the state minimum wage
155,000 Women Fall in Coverage Gap

Gap in Coverage for Adults in States that Do Not Expand Medicaid under the ACA

- **Medicaid**: Limited to Specific Low Income Groups
  - 0% FPL Childless adults
  - 44% FPL $8,840 for parents in a family of three
- **No Coverage**:
- **Marketplace Subsidies**
  - 100% FPL $11,770 for an individual
  - 400% FPL $47,080 for an individual

**Median Medicaid Eligibility Limits as of January 2016**

THOUGHTFUL ANALYSIS, RESPONSIBLE POLICY
Child Care Costs Burden Georgia Families

Child Care Can Equal Nearly 40% of a Low-Income Family Budget

- $1509 Must Cover:
  - Housing
  - Food
  - Healthcare
  - Transportation
  - Other Necessities
  - Taxes

- $945 Monthly Child Care
Georgia Child Care Assistance Helps Only a Fraction of Those In Need

- Children Receiving Child Care Assistance: 50,000
- Children Under 13 in Low-Income Working Families: 682,000
A Georgia Work Credit Benefits Women

- 40% of Georgia’s working women stand to gain from a state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
- The EITC boosts work hours, especially among single mothers

THOUGHTFUL ANALYSIS, RESPONSIBLE POLICY
Women Have Most to Gain From $10.10 Minimum Wage

- Nearly one in four Georgia women would benefit from a $10.10 minimum wage
- Women affected by minimum wage increase would see cumulative wages rise by $342 million
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