



BARACK OBAMA AND JOE BIDEN'S PLAN TO RECLAIM

THE AMERICAN DREAM FOR AAPI WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES

“We also need to change a system that is stacked against women. Forty percent of working women do not have a single paid sick day. More and more women are denied jobs or promotions because they’ve got kids at home. As the son of a single mother, that is not the America that I believe in. I’ll be a president who stands up for working parents. We’ll require employers to provide seven paid sick days each year. We’ll enforce laws that prohibit caregiver discrimination. And we’ll encourage flexible work schedules to better balance work and parenting for mothers and fathers. That’s the change that working families need.”

--Barack Obama, Speech in Bettendorf, Iowa, November 7, 2007

AT A GLANCE

Pay Equity

Barack Obama will better enforce the Equal Pay Act, fight job discrimination, and improve child care options and family medical leave to give AAPI women equal footing in the workplace.

Reproductive Choice

Obama has been a consistent champion of reproductive choice and will make preserving a women’s right to choose under *Roe v. Wade* a priority as president. Obama also supports expanded access to contraception, health information and preventive services to reduce unintended pregnancies.

Health Care

Obama will tackle diseases and illnesses that disproportionately affect AAPI women.

Domestic Violence

Obama introduced legislation to combat domestic violence and cosponsored and helped reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act.

THE PROBLEM

Discrimination at the Job

For every \$1.00 earned by a man, the average woman receives only 77 cents. A recent study estimates it will take another 47 years for women to close the wage gap with men at Fortune 500 corporate offices.

Need for Paid Leave

The 78 percent of employees covered by the Family Medical Leave Act who have needed leave but have not taken it report that it is because they could not afford to take unpaid leave. Furthermore, low-income families are less likely to have the resources or savings to compensate for time off.

Violence Against Women Continues

One-in-four of all women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime. Family violence accounted for 11 percent of all violence between 1998 and 2002. Between 40 and 60 percent of AAPI women have reported physical and/or sexual violence in during their lifetime. Thousands of women from Asia and the Pacific are also trafficked into the U.S. annually.

Women's Health

Heart disease is the leading cause of death among women, accounting for nearly 39 percent of all female deaths. Studies show that after a first heart attack, women are less likely than men to receive follow-up care and are more likely to have a second heart attack. Women are also more likely than men to report having arthritis, asthma, autoimmune diseases, and depression. Health care disparities among minority and poor women are especially pervasive.

BARACK OBAMA AND JOE BIDEN'S PLAN

Fight for Pay Equity

Barack Obama and Joe Biden believe the government needs to take steps to better enforce the Equal Pay Act, fight job discrimination, and improve child care options and family medical leave to give women equal footing in the workplace.

Expand High-Quality Afterschool Opportunities

Obama and Biden will double funding for the main federal support for afterschool programs, the 21st Century Learning Centers program, to serve one million more children.

Expand the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit

Obama and Biden will reform the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit by making it refundable and allowing low-income families to receive up to a 50 percent credit for their child care expenses. Coupled with Obama's "Making Work Pay" tax credit, this proposal will help put more money directly in the pockets of hardworking low and middle-income parents.

Paid Sick Days

Obama and Biden will require that employers provide seven paid sick days per year to their employees.

Encourage States to Adopt Paid Leave

Obama and Biden will initiate a strategy to encourage all 50 states to adopt paid-leave systems. Obama will provide a \$1.5 billion fund to help states jump start paid-leave programs consistent with their local needs.

Expand Flexible Work Arrangements

Obama and Biden will create a program to inform businesses about the benefits of flexible work schedules; help businesses create flexible work opportunities; and increase federal incentives for telecommuting. They will also make the federal government a model employer in terms of adopting flexible work schedules.

Protecting a Women's Right to Choose

Obama and Biden will make safeguarding women's rights under *Roe v. Wade* a priority. They oppose any constitutional amendment to overturn that decision.

Reducing Unintended Pregnancy

Obama and Biden will work to reduce unintended pregnancy by guaranteeing equity in contraceptive coverage, providing sex education, and offering rape victims accurate information about emergency contraception.

Ending Health Care Disparities

Obama and Biden will invest in research to examine gender and health disparities. They will also establish community outreach programs in underserved areas to help make sure women have health care and maintain healthy lifestyles.

Ending Violence Against Women

Barack Obama and Joe Biden will appoint a special advisor who will report regularly on issues related to violence against women. They will also pass legislation that provides job security to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

OBAMA'S RECORD

Record of Advocacy

Barack Obama has a long record of standing up for women. In Illinois, he helped pass the Equal Pay Act to give 330,000 more women protection from pay discrimination and passed another law that ensured victims of domestic violence could seek treatment without losing their jobs. In the U.S. Senate, he introduced and cosponsored legislation to reduce unintended teen pregnancy, strengthen families by supporting fathers who are doing the right thing and cracking down on those who are not, guarantee workers paid sick leave, and ensure that women are not receiving less pay than men for comparable work. And throughout his career, in both the Illinois Senate and the U.S. Senate, Obama has stood up for a women's right to choose, consistently earning 100 percent ratings from pro-choice groups.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Read the Plan

<http://my.barackobama.com/page/content/womenissues>

Read the Speech

http://www.barackobama.com/2007/11/07/remarks_of_senator_barack_obam_31.php

Read the Op-Ed

http://www.barackobama.com/2007/10/31/violence_against_women_at_home.php



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