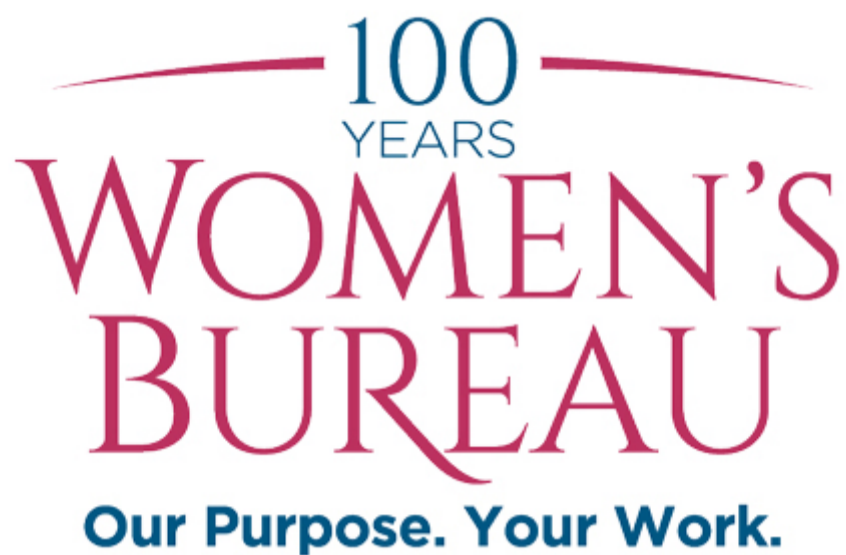


**Women's Bureau**

# WB Updates August 2020 | Issue VI



Dear Friends of the Women's Bureau,

Across the country, quality, affordable child care for working parents has become increasingly critical. According to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, 91.3% of families with children had at least one working parent in 2019, while 64.4% of children had two working parents.

As the Director of the U.S. Department of Labor's Women's Bureau, I understand the important role child care can play in determining the career paths of millions of American women. In short, better access to child care means more opportunities for women to succeed and thrive in the workplace.

The Trump Administration has put access to child care front-and-center in the national conversation. The White House has published a series of principles that empower parents.

However, as the nature of work changes and schools and child care providers respond to COVID-19, what is clear is that the needs of working women and families will also change. Not only will many working families need care for their young children, this autumn many may need care for children that would otherwise be in school. We must reopen safe, high-quality school and child care facilities that have temporarily closed due to COVID-19, but also focus on expanding providers, especially in-home and family care and faith-based care providers, so that families have options for today and in the future.

Last month, I was proud to join Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump, as we toured Bright Beginnings Child Care Center. It was an excellent opportunity to see first-hand how the availability of safe, high-quality child care was making a difference in the lives of our youngest Americans and how it enables the parents of small children and infants to provide for their families.

During these unprecedented times, working parents across the country are facing new and unexpected challenges every day. Finding affordable, quality child care should not be one of them. Tackling the regulatory framework that makes it difficult for Americans to afford to have families is a behemoth undertaking. However, there is no doubt that ensuring this access is essential to long-term economic recovery and increased prosperity for women. The Trump Administration will continue to work towards a future where America's parents can rest assured that their children are properly cared for while they go to work.

Sincerely,

Laurie Todd-Smith, Ph.D.  
Director  
Women's Bureau  
U.S. Department of Labor

## DOL Visits Bright Beginnings Learning Center in Colorado to Highlight the Importance of Safe, High-Quality Child Care



On July 24, Women's Bureau Director Laurie Todd-Smith visited the Bright Beginnings Learning Center in Colorado with Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump, U.S. Senator Cory Gardner, and HHS Assistant Secretary Lynn Johnson. They had the opportunity to learn about new safety procedures implemented at child care facilities and the impact these facilities have on working mothers and families.

Read Director Todd-Smith's blog post on the visit.

## Public Comments Requested on the Effectiveness and Impact of Paid Family Leave



The U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) Women's Bureau released a request for information (RFI) on the impact of paid family and medical leave on America's workforce. The Women's Bureau seeks to identify promising practices related to eligibility requirements, related costs, and administrative models of existing paid leave programs, to improve the well-being of women in the workforce. The public can provide comments through September 14, 2020.

- [Women's Bureau's paid leave RFI webpage](#)
- [DOL's news release](#)
- [Federal Register notice](#)

## Americans with Disabilities Act 30th Anniversary



The Office of Disability Employment Policy posted information on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of its signing on July 26, 1990. Featured is a timeline highlighting disability employment legislation enacted since the signing of the ADA and other notable related events from the past 30 years. Also included are suggestions on ways for organizations and individuals to celebrate ADA30.

- [Visit ODEP's ADA30 webpage](#)
- [View the ADA30 timeline](#)

## **Tell Us Your Story.**



The Women's Bureau's "Our Purpose. Your Work." initiative presents women of all ages with the opportunity to share your work stories and discuss how the Women's Bureau has helped advance your purpose. Throughout our centennial year, we have collected and shared stories to learn how the Women's Bureau's resources and initiatives have made a difference in your life, at work and home.

Please share your story and tell us how the Women's Bureau's work has impacted your life, your work, or your family.

## **Follow the Women's Bureau on Twitter: @WB\_DOL**



The Women's Bureau has been championing the rights of working women and serving as a convener of conversations for the past 100 years.

Follow us at @WB\_DOL to learn more about the latest research, initiatives, policies, and updates related to working women. We look forward to continuing the thoughtful conversations we've had with our stakeholders for the last 100 years on Twitter!



## Women's Bureau

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