



UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE AND CHILDCARE ARE ESSENTIAL TO LIFT WOMEN OUT OF POVERTY

WHEREAS, poverty continues to be a significant problem in California, with the overall poverty rate of 13.1 percent exceeding the national average; and

WHEREAS, poverty in California is particularly concentrated among female-headed households, with a rate for female heads of households of approximately 30 percent; and

WHEREAS, the lack of universal healthcare and universal childcare are fundamental impediments to women's ability to escape poverty; and

WHEREAS, the lack of affordable, available healthcare and childcare inhibits the ability of low-income women to continue their education, hold jobs beyond low-paying service jobs, and keeps many out of the workforce altogether; and

WHEREAS, the average annual cost in California for licensed childcare is approximately \$6700, which is 48 percent of an annual minimum wage salary; and

WHEREAS, low-income women, many of whom are women of color, form the backbone of service, retail, and manufacturing industries in California and generate tremendous income for and contribute greatly to the overall economic health of the State, but rarely receive any healthcare or childcare benefits in return; and

WHEREAS, expanding healthcare and childcare coverage to all, but particularly to lower-income women, will recognize the true economic value of the work done by those currently without coverage; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the undersigned convention participants that bridging annual state funding shortfalls by cutting essential healthcare and childcare funding is economically counterproductive and will keep low-income women in poverty; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the undersigned participants urge the Legislature to dedicate funds annually to increase the supply of affordable childcare for lower-income residents, with an ultimate goal of providing universal childcare for *all* residents, and to pass SB 921 to provide affordable healthcare for all residents, so that all Californians will share equally in the economic and social benefits that accrue from stable, quality healthcare and childcare.