

2016 Stronger Together Talking Points and FAQ on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

October 7, 2016

Core Message

Our Commonwealth has a long history of fighting for women's rights and gender equality. State Democratic leaders have worked to ensure that Massachusetts is leader in fighting to eliminate all forms of gender discrimination and to ensure equal opportunities for women and girls.

Hillary has fought for women and girls her entire career, and she will continue to advance women's rights. She believes that issues that affect women's lives are family issues, economic issues, and crucial to the nation's competitive future. In order to promote equality and opportunity, we must fight for women's rights.

Trump is outspokenly sexist, with a history of vile comments towards women. His statements on reproductive rights, paid family leave, and equal pay would jeopardize equal opportunity. Trump promotes violence and sexism both through his comments and his policy plans; his presidency would be dangerous for women.

Massachusetts has Made Leaps and Bounds in Women's Rights and Gender Equality

- All but two of Massachusetts's constitutional officers are women.
- Thanks to a Democratically-led legislature, Massachusetts recently passed a first-of-its-kind pay equity bill into law.
- To protect women seeking health care, Massachusetts passed the original buffer zone law in 2000. Attorney General Coakley fought to expand that zone to 35 feet in 2007. When the law was overturned in 2014, the Democratically-led Legislature and Governor Patrick acted quickly to pass legislation that ensured women would continue to access clinic services without being subjected to anti-abortion protesters.
- The Democratically-led legislature passed and Governor Patrick signed into law an act mandating employers to offer those impacted by domestic violence up to 15 days of leave for counseling, court proceedings, medical attention, securing housing, and other victims' services.
- In 2012, Massachusetts passed a law that provided legal protection against discrimination as a result of gender identity in employment, housing, education, credit, and hate crimes.

Hillary Clinton's Plan Will Further Gender Equality and Opportunity

- As president, Clinton will work to close the pay gap and to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act, which will ensure pay transparency and pay equity.
- She will also increase the minimum wage, which will lift millions of women out of poverty and have a ripple effect across our economy.
- She will fight for paid leave and make quality, affordable child care a reality for families.
- Clinton will protect and expand the Affordable Care Act, which has helped address discrimination in our healthcare system and brought health coverage to millions more women.
- She will defend and enhance Social Security, especially for women.
- Clinton will proudly stand with Planned Parenthood, and always defend the essential health and reproductive care that Planned Parenthood provides for women.
- She will protect women's health and reproductive rights by defending access to affordable contraception, preventive care, and safe and legal abortion—not just in principle, but in practice.

- Clinton will confront violence against women, focused especially on sexual assaults on campuses, abusive relationships, and gun violence against women.
- Hillary will promote gender equality around the world, where women are still held back by social, economic, and legal barriers.

Trump Disrespects Women and Will Limit Their Rights

- Trump does not outline a single position on sexual harassment, abortion, equal pay, or paid family leave on his website. His comments and actions, however, paint a picture of the U.S. taking a step backwards on women's rights.
- Trump has a history of vile and sexist comments towards women, including calling a breastfeeding woman "disgusting," referring to women as "fat pigs," and accusing Clinton of "playing the woman card."
- Trump said there should be "some form of punishment" for women who have an abortion.
- Trump plans to defund Planned Parenthood, and has even stated that he would let the government shutdown in order to do so.
- He has also promised to pack the Supreme Court with anti-choice judges and plans to repeal the Affordable Care Act.
- He has paid men on his campaign staff one-third more than women, according to a Boston Globe analysis of payroll data. This disparity is greater than the national gender pay gap.
- When discussing paid family leave, Trump has called pregnancy "an inconvenience for a business."