

THE GOP TAX PLAN: A BAD DEAL FOR WOMEN

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After the House and Senate passed different versions of the “Tax Cuts and Jobs Act,” a handful of Republican lawmakers wrote a “conference” tax bill behind closed doors that both chambers plan to vote on this week. It’s clear how Americans feel about it: a recent poll found [more than 60 percent](#) of them opposed to Republicans’ efforts, the [lowest level of public support](#) of any major legislative proposal in 30 years. What’s going unnoticed is how disastrous this plan would be for generations of women and families. In response, the National Women’s Law Center and American Bridge today are releasing a new report outlining the impacts this plan would have on women and the economic security – and survival – of American families.

The “Tax Cuts and Jobs Act” would force women and families to pay for tax cuts for big corporations and wealthy elites and endanger some of the most critical programs serving women and families.

“The GOP tax plan is a slap in the face for women and families. The bill would leave 13 million people without health insurance, make it more expensive to go to work, and make it harder to realize the American dream of owning a home—all to give tax cuts to big corporations, millionaires and billionaires, and wealthy heirs and heiresses,” stated Anna Chu, Vice President for Income Security and Education at the National Women’s Law Center.

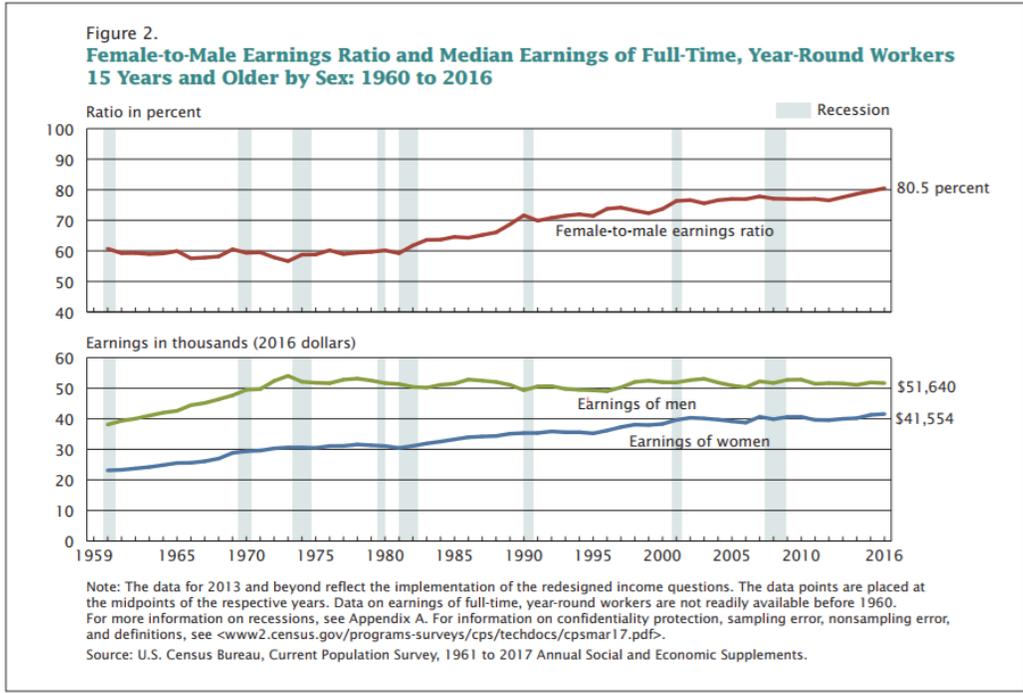
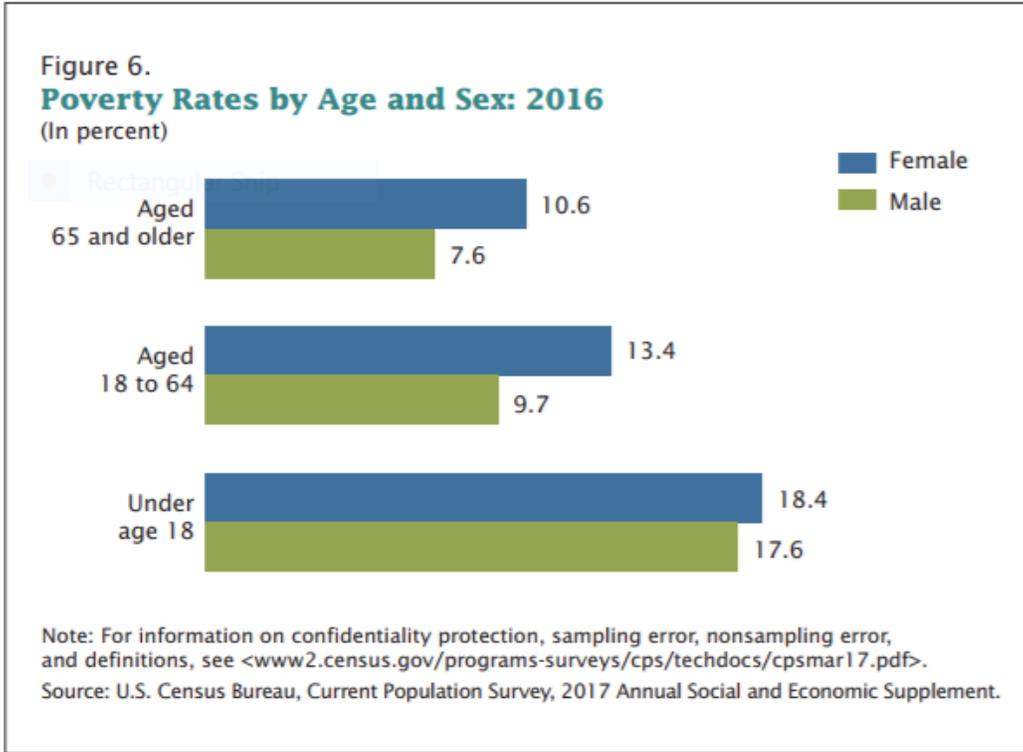
“The GOP tax proposal is an insult to women across America. It would enrich the wealthiest few at the expense of women and working families, many of whom would see no benefit or their taxes actually go up. These plans would devastate programs critical to women’s lives and livelihoods,” noted Dawn Huckelbridge, Senior Director of the Women’s Rights Initiative at American Bridge.

Wealthy Americans would see the greatest boost in after-tax income under the GOP plan – at the expense of women and families.

While Republicans claim that their tax plan would help middle-class families, the wealthiest among us and corporations [would be the biggest beneficiaries](#) – and many women and families would actually [see their taxes go up](#).

Most of the original GOP plan [remains](#) in this bill. [Several nonpartisan estimates](#) of the various versions of the Republican tax plan show that the majority of the benefits would go to the richest households, while low- and middle-income households would be rolling the dice, with millions facing tax hikes in later years. In fact, a [recent analysis](#) from the non-partisan Tax Policy Center found that in 2027, a married couple with young children would see their taxes go up by \$150 under the Senate plan.

While the number of female-headed households is [rising](#) in America, under the Republican tax plan, these families are [underrepresented](#) among the households receiving the bulk of tax benefits, and overrepresented in the lowest income quintile. Additionally, women make up a small fraction of the top earners the bill was designed to benefit. As a whole, women still disproportionately [experience poverty](#) throughout life, in 2015 full-time female workers [earned an average](#) of \$10,000 less than full-time male workers, and women still experience a pay gap across industries. Nearly [two-thirds](#) of minimum wage workers are women, and nearly [six in ten](#) workers in low-wage jobs are women – many of whom are supporting children.



Source: United States Census Bureau, “[Income and Poverty in the United States: 2016](#)”

In addition, the conference bill would eliminate personal and dependent exemptions, reduce the deduction for state and local taxes, and cut critical tax benefits for workers – increasing financial burdens for many working families, particularly those with children and living in higher tax states.

The GOP tax plan would cut and threaten critical programs serving women and families.

Although analysis of the newly released conference proposal is ongoing, we already know that the tax cuts in earlier versions would have [slashed](#) revenue and cost approximately \$1.5 trillion over a ten-year period – a cost that will result in spending cuts. Republicans have shown us through their budget proposals that they want to cut programs that are essential to the wellbeing of women and their families, including Medicaid, Medicare, nutrition assistance, Pell Grants, housing assistance, funds for combatting violence against women, and more.

Medicaid. The budget Congress passed [calls](#) for over \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid – which provides health care coverage to over 33 million women and girls. Medicaid finances nearly half of all births in the US and nearly 75 percent of all publicly funded family planning services.

Medicare. Women [make up](#) 55 percent of Medicare beneficiaries nationwide. Medicare changes or cuts would be [especially harmful](#) to women – women, on average, are poorer, live longer, and have more health care needs.

Nutrition Assistance. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) [served](#), on average, more than 44.2 million people each month in Fiscal Year (FY) 2016. In FY 2015, women comprised the majority of adult SNAP recipients (62 percent of nonelderly and 64 percent of elderly recipients).

Child Care. The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) [provides](#) assistance to help low-income families with their child care costs. CCDBG benefits 1.4 million children and their families.

Pell Grants. The Federal Pell Grant Program [helps](#) low-income students pursue a college education. In the 2011-12 academic year, women comprised 57 percent of Pell Grant undergraduate recipients.

The Child Tax Credit provision would benefit wealthy families more than low-income workers.

The conference bill will [increase](#) the refundable portion of the Child Tax Credit to \$1,400 per child. But this increase wouldn't be available to many low-income families who don't make enough to owe federal income taxes. [Ten million children](#) live in families that would only receive a token \$75 – or less – under the child tax proposal, hardly a meaningful benefit for working families.

At the same time, the proposal would [allow](#) families earning nearly half a million dollars to claim \$2,000 per child. And children who do not have Social Security Numbers would no longer be able to be claimed for the refundable Child Tax Credit under this proposal.

The GOP is still attempting to gut the Affordable Care Act through its tax plan.

The conference bill would [repeal](#) the ACA's individual mandate, which the Congressional Budget Office estimates would [increase](#) the number of uninsured by 13 million over 10 years and increase insurance premiums by 10 percent.

Roughly [9.5 million](#) women gained health insurance since passage of the ACA and 55 million women now have access to preventive care at no cost, from annual well-woman exams, to breastfeeding supplies for nursing mothers, to birth control.

This tax plan furthers the inequities working women and their families face – and benefits only the wealthiest families and corporations.

If Republicans wanted a new tax plan that genuinely served women and families, they would focus on improving tax credits, including the Earned Income Tax Credit, so that low-income families received the most benefit, and truly addressing the health, care, and economic needs of working women and all Americans.