WOMEN MEAN BUSINESS

Nearly half of Arkansas single moms live in poverty. The best way to make sure that moms and their kids have bright financial futures is to start making smart policy decisions.

KEYS TO SUCCESS

HEALTH INSURANCE

Medical costs are the #1 cause of bankruptcy. That is why health insurance coverage is so important to family economic security. ARKids First helps kids stay healthy and have coverage that families can afford and has reduced the rate of uninsured kids to less than 5 percent. Despite this progress, many children in Arkansas still lack health coverage.

MATERNITY LEAVE

Arkansas has no paid maternity leave program. This forces new moms to choose between their finances and their family's health. About half of first-time mothers don't take any form of paid leave around the time of their pregnancy, usually because they can't afford the drop in income. It's time for paid maternity leave legislation in Arkansas.

AFTER-SCHOOL & SUMMER PROGRAMS

After-school and summer programs support working parents, especially moms who have to work more than one job. These kinds of programs let moms stay at work with the peace of mind that their kids are safe and learning new skills. After-school and summer programs are key to inspiring children to learn, keeping children safe, and supporting working families.

QUALITY PRE-K

Quality, affordable pre-K helps moms stay at work and build their careers. It also helps kids have better health, social, and economic outcomes. Unfortunately, Arkansas pre-K programs haven't seen a permanent funding increase since 2008. We need to invest in the quality of our program to see the substantial educational, social, and emotional gains.

TAX CREDITS

An earned income tax credit (EITC) would help moms in Arkansas move out of poverty for good. These tax credits have broad bipartisan support and are shown to increase employment among single mothers. Moms who received credits like this also had higher wages in later years compared to those who didn't.