



# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2010 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

For 38 years, the National Women's Law Center has expanded the possibilities for women and girls, using the law in all its forms: getting new laws on the books; litigating groundbreaking lawsuits all the way to the Supreme Court, and educating the public about ways to make the law and public policies work for women and their families. In 2010, the Center played a pivotal role in advancing rights and opportunities for women:

- Galvanized women to support passage of **landmark health care reform legislation** that ended insurers' practices of charging women higher premiums than men, excluding coverage for maternity care and treating domestic violence and Cesarean sections as pre-existing conditions, and helped secure progressive financing for it, by releasing a ground-breaking report on the discriminatory practices; launching a high-profile public education campaign, *Being A Woman Is Not a Pre-existing Condition*; and providing leadership and coordination to diverse coalitions.
- Supported the **confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan**, which means that, for the first time, three women Justices serve on the Court together, by researching and highlighting her impressive record, developing materials on the difference that women make on courts, and testifying on her behalf during her Senate Judiciary Committee hearing.
- Aided families hurting in the Great Recession by helping to win passage of **extended unemployment insurance benefits** for nearly three million long-term jobless workers and secure \$15 billion in **enhanced Medicaid funding** for states and \$10 billion in **state and local education assistance**, by documenting the specific impact of the recession on women and their families and energizing and supporting grass roots advocates around the country.
- Advanced the cause of U.S. ratification of a landmark **international human rights treaty for women**, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), by providing congressional testimony, legal and policy analysis; conducting public education; and serving as a leader of the broad coalition on CEDAW and Senate ratification.
- **Protected state child care funds** against cuts and secured some improvements by distributing with CLASP recommendations on effective use of American Recovery Act funds, providing technical assistance to policy makers and advocates, documenting the success in the Center's report, *Supporting State Child Care Efforts with American Recovery Act Funds*, and winning support for hundreds of millions of dollars in **increases for child care and Head Start** for low-income families and funding for a new Early Learning Challenge Fund in key House and Senate bills.
- Advanced the cause of **fair pay for women** and built support for the Paycheck Fairness Act, critical legislation passed by the House and scheduled for a Senate vote, which strengthens tools against wage discrimination, by launching a new public awareness campaign, *Stop Discounting Women: Women are Not WorthLess*, on the wage gap that women face and by detailed research on the need to strengthen the law.
- Helped **ease the financial burden for millions of low-income families** by enlisting over 50 new community partners in more than half the states for the Center's Tax Credits Outreach Campaign and distributing to them user-friendly materials for low-income families that, in the previous year, helped increase the number of tax filers claiming these credits by 2.3 million and the amount of assistance claimed by over \$5.6 billion.

- Spearheaded campaigns to promote and maintain [substantial new tax credit improvements](#) for low- and moderate-income families and a [fair and responsible tax system](#) including through leadership of a major new coalition, Americans for Responsible Taxes; analyses of the ways in which various tax proposals would help or hurt low-income women and families; and concentrated work with grass roots advocates in several states.
- Secured the [opening of submarine service to women](#) and a revitalized Defense Advisory Committee for Women in the Services, by widely circulating a position paper, meeting with key government officials, and conducting other outreach and advocacy with key partner organizations.
- Won restoration of [protections for female athletes under Title IX](#), the law prohibiting sex discrimination in federally funded schools, by leading a coalition making the case to the Obama administration to reinstate effective standards that had been eliminated by the Bush administration.
- Helped [expand unemployment insurance coverage](#) in 8 states, including coverage for part-time workers and workers who leave their jobs for family reasons, by engaging and helping state advocates demonstrate the impact on women of these reforms.
- Won state prohibitions against [gender discrimination in health insurance](#), including in Colorado, which banned gender rating in the individual insurance market, and in New Mexico, which banned gender rating in the individual and small group markets, by providing technical assistance to state lawmakers, testifying about the issue, and conducting public education, advocacy and outreach in those states.
- Contributed to a [U.S. Supreme Court employment victory](#), by serving as co-counsel on an *amicus* brief in *Lewis v. City of Chicago*, which held that the time period for filing a workplace discrimination claim resets each time an employer decides to hire or promote some individuals and not others based on the discriminatory employment practice.
- Helped end the ban on [Medicaid funding for abortion health services in the District of Columbia](#), allowing D.C. to decide for itself whether to use its own taxpayers' funds, as it now does, by working with coalition partners and conducting advocacy and outreach on the importance of Medicaid to low-income women.
- Shone a light on the dangerous [treatment of mothers and pregnant women in prison](#), by releasing a report, *Mothers Behind Bars*, with the Rebecca Project for Human Rights, which examined state and federal policies on prenatal care, shackling during childbirth, and alternatives to incarceration, giving 20 states and the District of Columbia failing grades for their inadequate or non-existent policies in these areas.
- Advanced an important strategy for improving [compensation and working conditions for home-based child care providers](#) through unionization, by documenting in a comprehensive update to the Center's 2007 groundbreaking report, *Getting Organized*, that the number of states authorizing unionization had doubled in the last few years, and spearheading strategy discussions among various stakeholders.
- Expanded [opportunities for female athletes](#) by filing complaints with the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights against 12 school districts for violating Title IX requirements to provide girls with equal opportunities to play sports in high school and by launching a public education campaign *Rally for Girls' Sports: She'll Win More than a Game*, to educate and mobilize parents and others to advocate for equal athletic opportunities for girls.