



**Testimony of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of
Michigan**

before the

Senate Reforms, Restructuring and Reinventing Committee

Hearing on the Michigan Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

Senate Hearing Room, Ground Floor, Boji Tower, Lansing

May 10, 2011

Good morning. My name is Barbara Bonsignore and I am the Public Policy Director of AAUW of Michigan. I am representing the organization at this hearing and appreciate the opportunity to give testimony on the subject of AAUW of Michigan's opposition to the elimination of the Michigan Earned Income Tax Credit.

AAUW is a membership organization founded in 1881. It has approximately 100,000 members and 1000 branches nationwide. This year, AAUW celebrates its 130-year history of breaking through barriers for women and girls.. The organization continues its mission through education, research, philanthropy and advocacy. AAUW of Michigan is the state component of the national organization with approximately 3,000 members and 42 branches throughout the state.

The 2009-2011 AAUW Public Policy Program states that: "AAUW promotes the economic, social and physical well-being of all persons." That is the reason I have come before you today, to say to you as a woman, a mother, a grandmother and a concerned citizen, as well as a representative of AAUW of Michigan, do not attempt to balance the state budget by raising taxes on low-wage women workers who depend on the EITC to pay necessary bills including groceries to feed their families.

At the AAUW of Michigan State Board of Directors Meeting in Grand Rapids on April 29, 2011 a vote was taken and adopted to formally oppose the elimination of the EITC and to inform the AAUW of Michigan membership about that decision. It is important to realize that since 2008, when Republican legislator Nancy Cassis introduced the EITC, it has been of benefit to approximately 800,000 Michigan families, including single mothers and women who are the primary breadwinners in their family.

We urge you to consider the consequences to those least able to make their voices heard in this matter. Do not make life more difficult for low wage women workers and their dependent families.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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