

MOTHERS (www.MothersOughtToHaveEqualRights.org) is a grassroots, diverse network of mothers, fathers, grandparents and other adults who are family caregivers. We are coming together to **promote the economic, social and political worth and importance of family, child and dependent care**. Its founders include **Ann Crittenden, author of *The Price of Motherhood* and the National Association of Mothers' Centers (NAMC)**, a non-profit, non-partisan organization with some 3,000 members and 40 mothers' support centers throughout the U.S. We are bringing together a coalition of individuals and organizations to improve the economic security of those who do caring work.

In the past few decades women have made enormous progress, but many women who become mothers have been left behind. The work of caring for children and other dependent family members is still unpaid or grossly underpaid, disrespected, and unacknowledged by all of the major institutions in our society. **We believe that correcting the economic disadvantages facing caregivers is the big unfinished business of the women's movement.**

Neither the workplace, family law, nor government puts much, if any, economic value on the all-important work of caring for others. The government does not even recognize unpaid labor in the home as "work," so family caregivers, unless they are employed, are left out of the basic social safety net. The effect of this disregard is clear: in our country, **motherhood has become the single greatest risk factor for poverty in old age**. The United States has the highest rate of **maternal and child poverty** of any advanced country. It ranks with Lesotho, Papua New Guinea & Swaziland in not offering paid family leave. American women in the long term make 38 cents to man's dollar due to caregiving responsibilities that affect their lifetime income and career advancement. And **millions of middle class mothers are economic dependents**, despite the fact that they are the primary producers of our most important source of national wealth: our future citizens, taxpayers, and workers.

The MOTHERS website is designed to help mobilize grassroots actions on behalf of caregivers. The site serves as a clearinghouse to inform supporters of other interested people in their area, to publicize initiatives taken by other grassroots mothers' groups around the country, to suggest coordinated local campaigns, and to enable supporters to quickly contact their state and national legislators on key issues. **MOTHERS' Economic Empowerment Working Agenda** has as its goal the recognition of mothers' work and contributions.

Visit our website to sign on for **MOTHERS' E-news** and to find out more about our **Annual Mother's Day Actions**.

Count MOTHERS in!

An initiative of



www.motherscenter.org

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