



## A Resolution supporting the use of campaign funds for Childcare

**Committee: Women's Issues**

**Resolution: WMN-20-06**

1. **Whereas** there are many barriers that parents, especially women, face when considering
2. running for office, including financial obstacles, the structure and unusual schedules of
3. political careers, and the perception of voters, donors, the press, and the political
4. establishment. There is one significant barrier, that until recently, had not been addressed
5. – that of parenthood.
6. **Whereas** according to the Federal Election Committee campaign funds can be used for
7. charitable donations, transfer of candidate assets, gifts that are not for a member of the
8. candidates family, and candidate salary. Meal expenses, travel expenses, vehicle
9. expenses
9. and other expenses can be paid out from campaign expenses on a case by case basis.
10. **Whereas** according to the Federal Election Committee cannot be used for personal use
11. like food, housing, tuition, funeral costs, clothing, entertainment, investment expenses,
12. **Whereas** the current laws only allow campaign funds for childcare while the candidate is
13. campaigning or performing legislative duties once elected. The use of funds is monitored
14. by the federal or state elections oversight committee and fraudulent use is a crime.
15. **Whereas** since 2018, 46 federal candidates have used campaign funds to pay for their
16. childcare, including 27 mothers and 19 fathers. Overall, at least 60 candidates have used
17. campaign funds to pay for childcare costs.
18. **Whereas** 18 States currently allow some form of using campaign funds for childcare
19. costs. 12 states have allowed the use through election commission requests. 6 states have
20. passed legislation.
21. **Whereas** Rep. Katie Porter introduced the "Let America Run Act," which the House
22. passed, and awaits action from the Senate, which would put in law the allowance of
23. campaign funds for dependent care and healthcare, but the allowance of campaign funds
24. for state and down ballot races requires action state by state.

25. **Whereas** campaign funds are not public funds or tax dollars. When candidates run for  
26. office, they must spend a significant amount of time raising funds from individuals and  
27. political groups to run their campaign. The funds they are using to pay for childcare are  
28. privately raised funds, not public dollars.  
29. **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that NOBEL Women will work with groups to push for  
30. the use of campaign funds for childcare.

#### References

<https://www.vox.com/2018/5/11/17340698/mom-mothers-congress-child-care-liuba-grechen-shirley-campaign-funds-babysitting>

An Act Supporting Working Parents who Choose to Run for Public Office (S386/H2898)

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/h639>

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**Introduced by Karen Camper  
Tennessee General Assembly**