



Share



Tweet



Forward

WE-Zine



PROGRESS, DELIVERED TO YOUR INBOX



What lifts women, lifts everyone

Dear %%FirstName%%,

On the heels of another successful luncheon ([The Working Lunch](#)), I am still enjoying my full cup. The testimonials and honorees left us all inspired. And the call to action was made clear. I'd like to share a portion of my remarks:

"I'm not sure about you, but I need this day. The pause to acknowledge and celebrate our collective impact, and the personal reflections of resiliency, fortitude, hope and activism are refilling my cup.

The presidential administration is viciously attacking the fabric of our democracy. Our core, foundational values. Equal opportunity. Rule of law. Liberty and justice for ALL. They are intentionally weakening and deconstructing the infrastructure and institutions that are meant to lift us all up. It is meant to look like chaos. But, it is deliberate, methodical and intentional.

Things like Medicaid, social security, child care supports. They're withdrawing funding from educational institutions. They're attacking the agencies that enforce equal opportunity and prevent discrimination. They're removing funding from nonprofits who serve the most vulnerable and attempting to challenge our nonprofit status if we speak out against their actions or don't hold their beliefs. Attacking free speech. Threatening our voting rights. And as you know, that's just the tip of the iceberg.

While it may all feel overwhelming. We can't allow those feelings to paralyze us. We must act together and rise to the challenge.

The administration's actions are unconscionable. But they are not insurmountable. And WE have the track record, the expertise, the strategic chops, and the sheer girl grit to stand up and fight back."

I've said it before; **this is a battle and our only chance to win is to stand together.** And, we all have roles to play. Some of us are on the frontlines, some in the courtrooms, some in the halls of Congress, some as a voice of the people, and some as financial, emotional, and mental supporters for those that choose to do the work every day. Find your path of action. When we are talking about this moment in history with our daughters and granddaughters, we should all be able to say what we did to ensure a society that values women. What we did to lift us all up.

In Solidarity,

Cherita Ellens
President & CEO

"They Said" with *The Working Lunch* 2025 Honorees



“

THEY SAID

In addition to creating a space for women's stories to be heard, we also honor and celebrate individuals and organizations who have dedicated their lives to Centering Women's Voices by actively listening, understanding their experiences, and bringing their voices to the tables where fundamental and systemic change happens at all levels.

”

Each spring, over 500 activists, community partners, and prominent leaders in philanthropy, business, media, and politics assemble in downtown Chicago for **The Working Lunch (TWL)**, Women Employed's (WE) signature fundraising event. The event offers attendees the opportunity to network with one another, as well as reflect on WE's previous accomplishments, while raising a glass at what's to come.

In addition to creating a space for women's stories to be heard, we also honor and celebrate individuals and organizations who have dedicated their lives to **Centering Women's Voices** by actively listening, understanding their experiences, and bringing their voices to the tables where fundamental and systemic change happens at all levels. This year, we recognized three extraordinary individuals who are committed to breaking down barriers that stand between everyday women and the opportunities they deserve.

In this month's "She Says," which we are calling, **"They Said,"** we are pleased to feature our 2025 honorees for The Working Lunch: **Isabel "Izzy" Dobbel, Gail Eisenberg, and Chicago Women in Trades**. Here, they share with us what empowers them, what it means to receive this honor, and how they center the voices and needs of women.

[Read More](#)

What WE Are Talking About

What You Need to Know About the Big Bad Bill

Protect Supports for Working Families

Women Employed

Devastating cuts to Medicaid, SNAP, Pell Grants, federal student loans, healthcare, child and family supports—the administration's budget reconciliation bill (which they call the 'big beautiful bill') will be a disaster for working families, particularly those with low incomes. But we still have time to stop it!

Check out information on the potential impacts:

**2025 Budget
Reconciliation**

The Center for Law
and Social Policy

**The House
Republicans' Budget
Bill Guts Basic Needs
Programs for the
Most Vulnerable
Americans to Give
Tax Breaks to the
Rich**

Center for American
Progress

**Republicans Snuck
Two Devastating
Health Care
Measures Into
Trump's Megabill**

Mother Jones

And then TAKE ACTION: <https://bit.ly/4ki5D9T>

URGENT: Take Action for Adequate and Equitable Public University Funding



For too long, funding for Illinois' public universities has been based on political influence and not the needs of Illinois students. We have a chance to pass a bill to ensure that ALL Illinois public universities and the students they serve have adequate, equitable, and stable funding that prioritizes the students and institutions most in need. All our universities win under this bill and so do Illinois students because now funding will be distributed by need.

Call your State Representative and State Senator, and urge them to support this bill. [To find your officials, use this tool from League of Women Voters, and scroll down to "State House" and "State Senate".](#)

Here's a call script you can use:

- My name is [insert name] I am your constituent. I am urging you to support the Adequate and Equitable Funding for Public Universities Act, to address the long-standing inequities in how Illinois funds its public 4-year universities.
- The Adequate and Equitable Funding for Public Universities Act lays the groundwork for a student-centered, equity-driven funding model that meets the needs of each university and the communities they serve. It ensures that institutions supporting high numbers of low-income and historically marginalized students are not left behind.
- Please vote YES on this bill. Thank you.

Find Your Elected Officials

Thank You for Centering Women's Voices With Us





Thank you for supporting our annual fundraiser, *The Working Lunch*! Your presence and your partnership, whether you joined us in-person or virtually, made a donation, or purchased raffle tickets, made our event a huge success! Because of you, we can continue Centering Women's Voices as we advocate for strategic solutions to fight rollbacks, advance progress, and support working women.

We are still feeling so inspired by every woman who took the stage during our program. Our honorees, **Izzy Dobbel**, **Gail Eisenberg**, and **Chicago Women in Trades (CWIT)**, are showing what it takes to drive systemic change in the midst of unimaginable challenges. Our testimonial speakers, **Vimla Homan** and **Bridget Booker**, who shared their personal experiences, are the heart and soul of our work. They give us the motivation to keep doing the work. And our keynote speaker, **Andrea Zopp**, reminded us all of the power of Centering Women's Voices at this time, and the importance of remembering our history given the threats we are facing right now.



Centering Women's Voices

Thanks to your incredible generosity, we can continue giving women a space to share their stories, unapologetically center their needs, and bring their voices and experiences to advocates, funders, policymakers and legislators to drive solutions—because when women rise, we all rise. For more than five decades, we've been transforming lives, and we're not planning to slow down.

Want to continue the impact of last week's event?

- Whether you've already made a gift or not, you can continue to [support our work with a donation](#). Every penny will be put to good use as we advocate for a better future.
- [Sign up for our email lists](#) to stay connected, and to take action!
- **Save the date for our next event.** We have three opportunities to connect with us in just the next month!
 - **Saturday, June 14th:** March with Women Employed in downtown Chicago at the No Kings Day Rally.
 - **Tuesday, June 24th:** Join Women Employed and the Equal Pay Chicago Coalition for a screening of the film Lilly, and a conversation.
 - **Wednesday, June 25th:** Join Women Employed's Advocacy Council for a panel discussion with the 2025 class of The Pattis Family Foundation Summer Leadership Program!

With you by our side, we look forward to breaking down even more barriers to economic equity, ensuring that working women have the resources and pathways to thrive.

Thank you for helping us turn your support into action.

What's New in *For the Common Good*?





In honor of all those who marched on May Day, for working women who face damaging wage gaps, and for workers everywhere, we focused our latest issue of *For the Common Good* on the **National Labor Relations Board (the NLRB)**.

One of President Trump's first actions was to attack the **National Labor Relations Board (the NLRB)**, attempting to paralyze the operations of this important agency by firing a board member—an unprecedented and many argue, illegal move—dismissing their General Counsel, and issuing an Executive Order to destroy their independence.

How much do YOU know about the NLRB, and their important work? **Watch this [short video](#) for 3 things YOU need to know, and take a deeper dive in [part 2](#).**



The threats to our rights are real, and they are frightening. To fight them, we must all stand together, firmly on the side of equity and opportunity for all. Together, we have the power to force change and protect those who need it most.

Sign up for our **Action Network** to learn about important information and actions you can take. And check out our webpage at womenemployed.org/commongood to keep up with all the latest.

Join WE and EPCC for Lilly Film Screening





5:00 - 8:00 p.m.



June 24, 2025



Access Living
115 W Chicago Ave

The **Equal Pay Chicago Coalition (EPCC)** invites you to join us for a momentous evening that brings together the **past, present, and future of the fight for pay equity**. Join WE and EPCC on Tuesday, June 24th, for a screening of *Lilly*, a powerful film highlighting the life and legacy of Lilly Ledbetter, whose courage and determination sparked a movement for equal pay. We will also celebrate recent milestones in Illinois, including the passage of our salary transparency law, and honor the future by recognizing the recipient of the inaugural Barb Yong Scholarship Contest.

Event Details:

- **Date:** Tuesday, June 24
- **Time:** 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Access Living, 115 W. Chicago Ave

This event will bring together advocates, leaders, and changemakers under one roof to celebrate the strides we've made and continue building momentum for progress.

[Reserve Your Spot](#)

No Kings Day!



On Saturday, June 14—Flag Day— join **WE** and our partner **organizations** for a rally and march in downtown Chicago as we come together to say **NO KINGS!**

Donald Trump wants tanks in the street and a made-for-TV display for his birthday. But real power isn't staged in Washington. It rises up everywhere else.

No Kings is a nationwide day of defiance. We're taking action to reject authoritarianism—and show the world what democracy really looks like. On June 14th, we're standing together to say no thrones, no crowns, no kings.

No Kings Rally Details:

- **Date:** Saturday, June 14, 2025
- **Rally Time:** 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Daley Plaza, look for the Women Employed signs to find us!

[Rally With WE](#)

Questions or concerns? Please contact Cher Alfaro at calfaro@womenemployed.org.

Live outside of Chicago? [Find an event near you.](#)

Resources

[Salary Transparency is Now the Law in Illinois](#)

[You Deserve Fair Pay](#)

Events

[No Kings Day Rally](#)

[Equal Pay Chicago Coalition Film Screening](#)

[June Advocacy Council Meeting](#)

On the Blog

[For the Common Good: The National Labor Relations Board \(NLRB\)](#)

[Where in the World is Women Employed?](#)

WE in the News

[Advancing Women's Rights with Women Employed: 50 Years of Progress](#)

[The State of Chicago Youth](#)

CAN TV

City Cast Chicago

[Your Guide to Buying a Bike in Chicago](#)

[Why Alleys Are the Backbone of Chicago](#)

City Cast Chicago

City Cast Chicago

What We're Reading

[Making Equal Opportunity Real: How Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Efforts Combat Workplace Discrimination](#)

National Institute for Worker's Rights

[Older people in crosshairs as government restarts Social Security garnishment on student loans](#)

The Associated Press

[A federal program helped student-parents thrive. Now it's on life support](#)

The Hechinger Report

[DEI Is Dying—And Black Women Are the Collateral Damage](#)

BET

[No proof of work could mean no Medicaid—and women stand to lose the most](#)

The 19th

[If Parenting Came with a Paycheck, Mothers of Young Children Would Earn \\$450 Billion a Year](#)

Institute for Women's Policy Research



[DONATE](#) | [SUBSCRIBE](#) | [READ PAST ISSUES](#)

WE pursue equity for all.

Women Employed and WE are registered in U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Women Employed is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit. All donations are tax deductible.



marketing cloud

This email was sent by: Women Employed
67 E. Madison, Suite 2000, Chicago, IL, 60603

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Update Profile](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)