



Monday, May 13, 2024
Minnesota Senate Building Room 1200, St. Paul, Minnesota

Agenda

- 8 – 8:20 a.m.** **Registration**
- 8:20 – 8:30 a.m.** **Welcome**
Nicole Blissenbach, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry
Heather Heyer, Director, Office on the Economic Status of Women
- 8:30 – 9:15 a.m.** **Starting a movement: Supporting women’s economic security prior to WESA**
Moderator: Lori Sturdevant
Aviva Breen, former Executive Director, Legislative Commission on the Economic Status of Women (1983-2001)
Bonnie Watkins, former Pay Equity Coordinator at the Minnesota Department of Employee Relations (1984-1991) and Executive Director, Minnesota Women’s Consortium (2003-2012)
Ellen Anderson, former state Senator, author of Minnesota’s 1998 Nursing Mothers law
- 9:15 – 9:20 a.m.** **WESA video**
- 9:20 – 10:05 a.m.** **Minnesota Women’s Economic Security Act: Beginnings to law**
Moderator: Leah Olm, Strong Women, Strong MN
Paul Thissen, former Speaker, Minnesota House of Representatives
Sen. Sandra Pappas, chief author of WESA, Minnesota Senate
Deb Fitzpatrick, Policy and Research Director, Children’s Defense Fund Minnesota, Minnesota Coalition for Women’s Economic Security

- 10:05 – 10:10 a.m.** **WESA video**
- 10:10 – 10:30 a.m.** **Economic status of women in Minnesota: WESA’s impact in data**
Christina Ewig, Director, Center on Women, Gender and Public Policy, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota
- 10:30 – 10:35 a.m.** **WESA video**
- 10:35 – 11 a.m.** **Improving lives: WESA’s impact in conversation**
Fuad Ali, WESA Unit Supervisor, Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry
Dr. Leah Henke, Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota Medical School, obstetrician/gynecologist, M Health Fairview
- 11 – 11:05 a.m.** **WESA video**
- 11:05 – 11:10 a.m.** **Equal Rights Amendment in Minnesota**
Betty Folliard, Founder, ERA Minnesota
- 11:10 – 11:55 a.m.** **A promising future for women in Minnesota**
Moderator: Gloria Perez, President and CEO, Women’s Foundation of MN
Peggy Flanagan, Lieutenant Governor
Melissa Hortman, Speaker, Minnesota House of Representatives
Erin Murphy, Majority Leader, Minnesota Senate
- 11:55 – Noon** **Concluding remarks**
Monica Meyer, Policy and Advocacy Director, Gender Justice, Minnesota Coalition for Women’s Economic Security