Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: Barr, William: Files
Folder Title: [Women's Career Choice Act of 1983]
Box: 14

To see more digitized collections visit: https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit: https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing

National Archives Catalogue: https://catalog.archives.gov/



DATE:

3/30/83

Becky Norton Dunlop

FROM:

Barbara Selfridge

Per your request.

- ask tike re
pension egn

Juesday orror

pupper formorror

OMB FORM 38 REV AUG 73 98th CONGRESS 1st Session

	_	
1		

s. ____

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STAT																				
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STOT	TI	T	7	D	ST	,	FT	TT	N	I.	HF	T	F	(TE	NA	SE	HE	7	TN

Mr. Armstrong introduced the following bill: which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To assist women in making career choices in the home or in the labor force, and for other purposes.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives
- 2 of the United States of America in Congress assembled.
- 3 SHORT TITLE
- 4 Section 1. This Act may be cited as the "Women's Career
- 5 Choice Act of 1983''.
- FINDINGS AND PURPOSE
- 7 Sec. 2. (a) The Congress finds that--
- 8 (1) women should have an equal opportunity and access
- 9 to all careers and occupations, including that of career
- 10 homemaker (sometimes called dependent wife);
- (2) equal career opportunity for women depends on
- having an economically realistic choice between being a
- 13 career homemaker and being in the paid labor force; and
- 14 (3) women should have the freedom to make career
- 15 choices without government compulsion and Federal law and
- 16 programs should not include incentives or disincentives
- 17 to induce women to make particular career choices or to
- 18 discourage them from choosing others.
- (b) It is the purpose of this Act to help make it
- 20 economically feasible for each woman to make her own career
- 21 choices, whether they be in the home or in the labor force,

```
1 or any combination thereof, without direct or indirect
   economic incentives or disincentives built into the Federal
 3
   law or programs to favor a particular choice or type of
   choice.
 4
 5
                   INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS
        Sec. 3. Subsection (c) of section 219 of the Internal
 6
 7
    Revenue Code of 1954 is amended to read as follows:
            "(1) In general. -- In case of any individual with
 8
        respect to whom a deduction is otherwise allowable under
 9
        subsection (a) who files a joint return under section
10
11
        6013 for a taxable year, there shall be allowed as a
        deduction any amount paid in cash for the taxable year by
12
13
        or on behalf of the individual to an individual
14
       retirement plan established for the benefit of his
15
       spouse.
          "(2) Limitation. -- The amount allowable as a deduction
16
       under paragraph (1) shall not exceed the excess of--
17
18
                ''(A) the lesser of--
                    "(i) $4,000, or
19
                    "(ii) an amount equal to the sum of the
23
21
                compensation includible in the individual's and
                the spouse's gross income for the taxable year,
22
23
                over
                ''(B) the amount allowable as a deduction under
24
           subsection (a) to the individual and the spouse for
25
26
            the taxable year (determined without regard to so
           much of the employer contributions to a simplified
27
            employee pension as is allowable by reason of
28
            paragraph (2) of subsection (b)).
29
       In no event shall the amount allowable as a deduction
30
31
       under paragraph (1) exceed $2,000.".
                    FUNDS TO ENCOURAGE HOMEMAKING
32
33
       Sec. 4. Part C of the General Education Provisions Act is
34
   amended by adding after section 439 the following new
```

```
1 section:
```

2 PROTECTION OF ROLE OF HOMEMAKER

3 Sec. 439A. Funds made available under any applicable

4 program shall be used to the greatest extent possible for

5 materials which enhance the role of the dependent wife, or

6 which encourage the pursuit of full-time homemaking as a

7 career.''.

8 PENSION VESTING REQUIREMENTS

9 Sec. 5. (a) (1) Subparagraphs (B) and (C) of section 203

10 (a) (2) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of

11 : 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1053 (a) (2) (B) and (C)) are amended to read

12 as follows:

13 ''(B) A plan satisfies the requirements of this

14 subparagraph if an employee who has completed at least 2 1/2

15 years of service has a nonforfeitable right to a percentage

16 of his accrued benefit derived from employer contributions

17 which percentage is not less than the percentage determined

18 under the following table:

Years of service:	Nonforfeitable percentage
2 1/2	25
3	30
3 1/2	35
4.	42
4 1/2	45
5	50
5 1/2	62
6	7₹
5 1/2	8.2
7	9Ø
7 1/2 or more	1 ØØ

- 19 ''(C) (i) A plan sastisfies the requirements of this
- 20 subparagraph if a participant who is not separated from the
- 21 service, who has completed at least 2 1/2 years of service,
- 22 and with respect to whom the sum of his age and years of
- 23 service equals cr exceeds 40, has a nonforfeitable right to a
- 24 percentage of his accrued benefit derived from employer
- 25 contributions determined under the following table:

If years of and sum of then the nonforfei-service equal age and service table percentage is-equals or exceeds-2 1/2 42 50 60

4

3	1/2	42	70
	4	43	80
4	1/2	44	90
	5	45	100

- 1 ''(ii) Notwithstanding clause (i), a plan shall not be
- 2 treated as satisfying the requirements of this subparagraph
- 3 unless any participant who has completed at least 5 years of
- 4 service has a nonforfeitable right to not less than 50
- 5 percent of his accrued benefit derived from employer
- 6 contributions and to not less than an additional 10 percent
- 7 for each additional half-year of service thereafter.".
- 8 (2) Section 203 (a) of such Act is amended by striking
- 9 out ``10'' in paragraph (2) (A) and inserting in lieu thereof
- 10 15".
- 11 (3) Section 203 (c) of such Act is amended--
- 12 (A) by striking out "5" in paragraph (1) (P) and
- inserting in lieu thereof '2 1/2'; and
- 14 (B) by striking out "the 5th plan year" in the
- first sentence of paragraph (3) and inserting in lieu
- 16 thereof ''2 1/2 plan years''.
- 17 (4) The amendments made by this subsection shall not
- 18 apply to a pension plan with respect to employees who are
- 19 under such plan on or before the date of enactment of this
- 20 Act.
- 21 (b) (1) Subparagraphs (B) and (C) of section 411 (a) (2)
- 22 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (relating to vesting
- 23 requirements for employer contributions) are amended to read
- 24 as follows:
- 25 ''(B) 2 1/2- to 7 1/2-year vesting.--A plan satisfies the
- 26 requirements of this subparagraph if an employee who has
- 27 completed at least 2 1/2 years of service has a
 - 28 nonforfeitable right to a percentage of his accrued benefit
 - 29 derived from employer contributions which percentage is not
 - 30 less than the percentage determined under the following
 - 31 table:

Years of service:

Nonforfeitable percentage

2	1/2					25
	3					30
3	1/2					35
	4				*	40
4	1/2					45
	5					50
5	1/2					60
	6					7.0
6	1/2					8.8
	7					90
7	1/2	or	more			132

1 ''(C) Rule of 40.--

''(i) A plan sastisfies the requirements of this

subparagraph if a participant who is not separated from

the service, who has completed at least 2 1/2 years of

service, and with respect to whom the sum of his age and

years of service equals or exceeds 40, has a

nonforfeitable right to a percentage of his accrued

benefit derived from employer contributions determined

under the following table:

If years of service equal or exceed	and sum of age and service equals or exceeds	then the nonforfei- table percentage is
or exceed	eduate of exceede-	
2 1/2	4 2	52
3	41	6 \tilde{e}
3 1/2	42	7 Ø
4	43	8 Ø
4 1/2	44	9 Ø
5	45	190

- 12 "(ii) Notwithstanding clause (i), a plan shall not 11 be treated as satisfying the requirements of this 12 subparagraph unless any participant who has completed at least 5 years of service has a nonforfeitable right to 13 14 not less than 50 percent of his accrued benefit derived 15 from employer contributions and to not less than an 15 additional 10 percent for each additional half-year of service thereafter.". 17
- 18 (2) Subparagraph (A) of section 411 (a) (2) of such Code
 19 is amended by striking out "10" in the text and heading
 20 thereof and inserting in lieu thereof "5".
 - 21 (3) Paragraph (10) (B) of section 411 (a) of such Code is 22 amended by striking out "5" and inserting in lieu thereof 23 "2 1/2".

- (4) The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to
- 2 years ending on or after the date of the enactment of this
- 3 Act but only with respect to individuals who become employees
- 4 on or after such date.

ARMSTRONG

ANALYSIS OF PROVISIONS

SECTION 3 would amend Section 219(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 to allow married individuals to establish Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) and contribute up to \$2,000 per year, either out of their own compensation income or out of their spouse's compensation income.

This amendment would allow a career homemaker whose compensation is less than \$2,000 per year to contribute the full \$2,000 from the spouse's earnings in an individual IRA, or joint IRA. A married couple could then have two IRAs and contribute a total of \$4,000 per year even though only one spouse had compensation income.

This amendment would remedy the present \$1,750 per year discrimination in the IRA section of the Internal Revenue Code under which couples where both husband and wife are in the work force can put \$4,000 per year into IRAs, but couples where one spouse is a career homemaker are allowed to put only \$2,250 into IRAs.

This amendment is a matter of simple equity. It should be obvious that career homemakers will someday grow old and need retirement income just as much as men and women in the work force. Our tax code should not discriminate against an individual's choice to be a career homemaker.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. President, since the introduction of the suffrage amendment by the 66th Congress in 1919, much progress has been made to eliminate discrimination against women. In recent years, legislation such as the Career Education Incentive Act (1977), the Women's Educational Equity Act (1978), legislation to eliminate prohibition of women in mines (1978), legislation allowing women to enter the U.S. military academies (1975) and the Federal Employees Flexible and Compressed Work Schedules Act (1978), have been enacted to promote and support women's full participation in the career of their choice. Many other examples exist which eliminate barriers to equal economic benefits for women and which intend to adequately award women for their accomplishments. Americans can be proud for such progress in the promotion of equal opportunities for women. But inequalities still exist.

The legislation I am submitting today seeks to eliminate some of the specific economic inequalities which still exist. Various groups concerned with correcting these inequalities and in promoting women's and family issues, have submitted some of the ideas which are contained in this bill. I support the concept of this legislation but recognize that these proposals need to be subjected to the full legislative process of hearings and committee review to make certain that the essential goals of economic equality are achieved. I therefore seek the advise and comment of my colleagues and interested persons and groups about these proposals.

I realize that much legislation has already been introduced in this session that is intended, in some way, to benefit women. I am submitting these proposals with the intent of achieving solid economic progress and equity for women. I am not interested in "window dressing" legislation. Symbolic victories do not pay grocery bills or give real recognition to the contribution of women to our society. The women of this country will be best served if Congress and the state legislatures systematically work to eliminate inequities resulting from the attitudes and practices of an earlier age.

SECTION 102(a) would amend the Walsh Healey Act and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act to remove the daily overtime restrictions placed on federal contractors in the private sector. Private sector employees of contractors providing goods and services to the federal government are still subject to outdated and counterproductive laws that restrict their working habits to an eight-hour day. This section would bring these laws governing federal contractors into conformance with the Fair Labor Standards Act and maintain the 40-hour workweek overtime standard.

Both the federal and private sectors have effectively used compressed and flexible work schedules. Such schedules have been proven to increase productivity, reduce energy requirements, and to be more responsive to the desires of employees. Equally important is that the cost-savings which are realized by those government contractors electing to use compressed workweeks would result in reductions in the cost of federal procurements.

This change would allow women who fall within this category more flexibility in their work schedules to allow for family and child care commitments.

When Social Security was created, the growth of marriages where both husband and wife work was not anticipated. Today both spouses work in most marriages, but the Social Security benefit structure penalizes those who leave the workforce to care for children at home. This amendment, now part of the Social Security Reform Bill, compensates by providing two more "dropout years" for child care in addition to the five years available to any worker under current law.

1st Session

C	
- 1	

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr.	Armstrong
	introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To assist women in making career choices in the home or in the labor force, and for other purposes.

(Insert title of bill here)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States
- of America in Congress assembled.
- 3 FINDINGS AND PURPOSE
- 4 Sec. 2. (a) The Congress finds that --
- 5 (1) women should have an equal opportunity and access to all careers
- 6 and occupations, including that of career homemaker (sometimes called
- 7 dependent wife):
- 8 (2) equal career opportunity for women depends on having an econo-
- 9 nomically realistic choice between being a career homemaker and being in
- 10 the paid labor force; and
- 11 (3) women should have the freedom to make career choices without govern-
- 12 ment compulsion and federal law and programs should not include incentives
- or disincentives to induce women to make particular career choices or to ...
- 14 discourage them from choosing others.

. . . 1 (b) It is the purpose of this Act to help make it economically feasible for 2 each woman to make her own career choices, whether they be in the home or in 3 the labor force, or any combination thereof, without direct or indirect economic incentives or disincentives built into the federal law or programs to 4 5 favor a particular choice or type of choice. INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS Sec. 3. Subsection (c) of section 210 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 7 is amended to read as follows: 8 "(1) In general. -- In case of any individual with respect to whom a deduction is otherwise allowable under subsection (a) who files a joint 10 return under section 6013 for a taxable year, there shall be allowed as a 11 deduction any amount paid in cash for the taxable year by or on behalf of 12 the individual to an individual retirement plan established for the benefit 13 of his spouse. 14 "(2) Limitation. - The amount allowable as a deduction under paragraph 15 16 (1) shall not exceed the excess of --"(A) the lesser of --17 "(i) \$4,000, or 18 "(ii) an amount equal to the sum of the compensation includ-19 able in the individual's and the spouse's gross income for 20 21 the taxable year, over "(B) the amount allowable as a deduction under subsection (a) to 22 23 the individual and the spouse for the taxable year (determined without regard to so much of the employer contributions to a 24 25 simplified employee pension as is allowable by reason of paragraph - (2) of subsection (b)). 26 In no event shall the amount allowable as a deduction under paragraph (1) 27 exceed \$2,000.". 28 FUNDS TO ENCOURAGE HOMEMAKING 29 30 Sec. 4. Part C of the General Education Provisions Act is amended by 31 adding after section 439 the following new section: "PROTECTION OF ROLE OF HOMEMAKER 32 "Sec. 439A. Funds made available under any applicable program shall not be **33**

used to discourage the pursuit of full-time homemaking as a career alter-

34

35

native.

Sec. 102 (a) of the Contract Work Hours Standards Act (42 U.S.C. 328 (a))
amended to read as follows:

"(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the wages of every laborer and mechanic employed by any contractor or subcontractor in his performance of work on any contract of the character specified in section 103 shall be computed on the basis of a standard workweek of forty hours, and work in excess of such standard workweek shall be permitted subject to the provisions of this section. For each workweek in which any such laborer or mechanic is so employed, such wages shall include compensation, at a rate not less than one and one-half times the basic rate of pay, for all hours worked in excess of forty hours in the workweek"

(b) Section 102 (b) of such Act is amended --

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

- (1) by striking out "eight hours in any calendar day or in excess of"

 in paragraph (1): and
- 15 (2) by striking out "eight hours or in excess of" in paragraph (2).

 16 Sec. . Subsection (c) of the first section of the Act entitled "An Act

 17 to provide conditions for the purchase of supplies and the making of contracts

 18 by the United States, and for other purposes" (41 U.S.C. 35 (c)), commonly

 19 known as the Walsh-Healey Act, is amended by striking out "eight hours in any

 20 one day or in excess of".
- Sec. . The amendments made by this Act shall not affect collective bar- 'gaining agreements in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

23 SOCIAL SECURITY

- Sec. . Section 215(b)(2)(A) of the Social Security Act is amended by

 (1) striking out "and" at the end of clause (i), (2) striking out the period

 at the end of clause (ii) and inserting ", and" in lieu thereof, and (3) adding

 after clause (ii) the following new clause (iii):
- "(iii) in the case of an individual who --
- "(I) attains age 62 or becomes disabled after December 1983,
- "(II) is entitled to old-age or disability insurance benefits, and
- 31 "(III) is divorced and has not remarried,
- 3 by the number of years provided in clause (i) or (ii), as may be applicable,
- 33 and further reduced by each year (not in excess of 10 such further years) during
- 34 which that individual was married and received no wages or self-employment income
- 35 for purposes of this title and no earnings while in the service of the Federal
- 36 Government or any State (or political subdivision thereof)."