

Women's Economic Priorities Candidate Information

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<b>Candidate Name</b>	Carol Shea-Porter
<b>Office Sought</b>	US Representative
<b>District</b>	NH-1

**Campaign Website** <http://www.sheaporter.com>

**Type Candidate Name for Signature** Carol Shea-Porter

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**Check One / Fair Pay** Support

**If elected, what specific actions will you take regarding fair pay programs?** In the 111th Congress, I was an original cosponsor the HR 12, the Paycheck Fairness Act, which amended the Equal Pay Act to revise remedies for, enforcement of, and exceptions to prohibitions against sex discrimination in the payment of wages. Unfortunately it did not become law. After returning to Congress in 2013, I am again an original cosponsor of HR 377, the Paycheck Fairness Act. I am committed to working to eliminate the pay gap.

**Check One / Minimum Wage** Support

**If elected, what specific actions will you take regarding minimum wage?** I am a cosponsor of H.R. 1010, the Fair Minimum Wage Act. A stronger minimum wage means a stronger economy. Raising the minimum wage helps working families make ends meet, and it drives economic growth for local businesses. No one who works full-time should have to live in poverty. I will continue to support an increase in the minimum wage.

**Check One / Birth Control**

Support

**If elected, what specific actions will you take regarding mandatory coverage of birth control?**

While in the US House of Representatives (2007-11), I sat on the Education & Labor Committee, which was one of the committees with jurisdiction over the Affordable Care Act, and I spoke in favor of the bill and voted for it. After it passed, I defended it against its critics in my district. I still do. I strongly oppose its repeal or the elimination of provisions mandating coverage of birth control. I view reproductive rights under the umbrella of the general right to privacy. Women have the right to make their own decisions about their reproductive lives, without government intrusion or interference.

I am an original cosponsor of H.R. 5051, the Protect Women's Health From Corporate Interference Act of 2014, which was introduced as a response to the Hobby Lobby and Conestoga Wood Supreme Court rulings. This bill prohibits for-profit companies with group health plans from denying their employees coverage of contraceptives, while keeping in place the original exemptions for religious employers and religious non-profits.

**Check One / FAMILY ACT**

Support

**If elected, what specific actions will you take regarding family-friendly workplace?**

I am a cosponsor of H.R. 1851, the FAMILY Act, because I believe that workers should have access to paid leave in order to care for their families and themselves. I am also a cosponsor of H.R. 3712, the Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act, and H.R. 515, the Parental Bereavement Act. H.R. 3712 would provide a family and medical leave insurance benefit to every individual, and H.R. 515 would allow an employee to take up to twelve weeks of leave should their child pass away. People should not have to risk their jobs or their financial stability in order to have a child or take care of their families. In 2009, I introduced H.R. 2161, the Family and Medical Leave Restoration Act, to reverse harmful changes made to the Family and Medical Leave Program in 2008.

**Check One / Access to Capital**

Support

**If elected, what specific actions will you take regarding access to capital for small businesses?**

I support programs that will help our country's small business owners grow, succeed, and ultimately create jobs.

**Check One / Access to Contracts**

Support

**If elected, what specific actions will you take regarding increasing access to federal contracts for women-owned small business suppliers?**

I understand the importance of small businesses to our economy, and I agree that we need to give women business owners the opportunities they need to succeed. They face their own challenges, like gender bias and the fact that the burden of caring for children and aging parents is more likely to fall on women. I introduced H.R. 3861, the Reward and Encourage New Business (RENEW Business Act), which will help businesses get off the ground by increasing the tax credit for start-up costs from \$5,000 to \$10,000. This legislation was signed into law in the 111th Congress, but it has expired. I also support programs that help educate women entrepreneurs, as well as the Small Business

Development Centers program.

**Check One / Retirement**

Support

**If elected, what specific actions will you take regarding ensuring Social Security solvency?**

I have always proposed raising the cap as a solution to Social Security's eventual funding shortfall. It is also a matter of fairness -- why should low-income Americans pay on their entire income while wealthy Americans, who can well afford to pay more, pay on only a fraction of their income? To stabilize Social Security funding, we need to raise the cap. The cap has been raised in the past, for example during the Reagan Administration, when needed. We need to do so again.

We have to protect Social Security as a guaranteed benefit, for this and future generations. I am completely opposed to any proposals or legislation to cut Social Security benefits, whether through privatization, means testing, changing the COLA calculation, or raising the age of eligibility, and will vote against any such proposals.

I was fortunate enough to grow up in a household that not only had my parents and siblings but my grandmother and a great-uncle as well. I witnessed what their Social Security checks did for them each month when they arrived. Both my grandmother and my great-uncle were so proud to be able to pay their own bills. It gave them a great sense of dignity and independence, and it was also needed because it was all they received. Then I saw my own parents start to collect Social Security, and that reinforced my belief that this program is critical for senior citizens and must never be tampered with or destroyed.