



Senator Laphonza Butler on Economic Mobility

Senator Laphonza Butler has been a dedicated advocate for economic opportunity, advancing policies that create pathways for individuals and communities of color. Throughout her tenure, she has introduced and supported legislative efforts to champion workforce development, financial inclusion, labor rights, and youth empowerment, reflecting her commitment to a more equitable and prosperous society.

Key Legislative Accomplishments

Workforce and Labor

- ***Workforce of the Future Act (S. 5031)***: Senator Butler [led the introduction of this bill](#), aimed at preparing today's workforce for the tech-driven economy of the future. This legislation that would require the Department of Labor, National Science Foundation, and Department of Education to conduct a study on the effects of artificial intelligence on job outlooks across sectors. This bill would also create a \$250 million grant program to **prepare students, teachers, and workers for the emerging and advanced technology jobs of the future.**
- ***Generation Now Workforce Representation Act (S. 4903)***: Senator Butler [led this legislation](#) to mandate youth representation on State Workforce Development Boards, promoting inclusivity and better alignment of career development with the needs of young people. By establishing youth workforce committees, the bill would ensure that workforce planning **reflects the aspirations and challenges of diverse youth populations.**
- ***Opening Doors for Youth Act (S. 3990)***: Senator Butler [co-led this legislation](#) with Senator Kaine to provide federal funding for local programs that offer summer and year-round employment to at-risk youth. This bill would connect young people with career training, mentorship, and financial literacy resources, supporting their long-term economic success.
- ***Pell Grant Preservation & Expansion Act (S. 4595)***: Senator Butler cosponsored this bill to nearly double the maximum award for Pell Grants and extend eligibility to DREAMers. The bill would address the rising costs of higher education, ensuring that students from low-income families can afford college and opening pathways to economic advancement for students across California and the nation.

Economic Access and Financial Inclusion

- ***Community Finance Language Inclusion Act (S. 4244)***: To address the needs of California’s diverse population, Senator Butler [introduced this bill](#) to expand the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund’s definition of “technical assistance.” By including outreach and materials in multiple languages, the bill would **enhance access to financial resources for non-English speakers**, enabling them to participate more fully in the economy.
- ***Multilingual Financial Literacy Act (S. 4248)***: Senator Butler [introduced this bill](#) to improve financial literacy, recognizing the barriers faced by individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP). The bill would direct a study to understand how language barriers affect financial health, helping policymakers craft more inclusive policies. This bill empowers LEP communities to navigate financial services effectively, promoting long-term economic stability.
- ***Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2024 (S. 3678)***: Senator Butler co-sponsored this bipartisan bill, which allows victims of natural disasters to deduct qualified disaster-related personal losses from their income. By waiving the 10% floor on deductions, the legislation would provide much-needed financial relief to families recovering from natural disasters, helping them rebuild and regain economic stability.
- ***Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act (S. 4897)***: Senator Butler introduced this bill, which would expand the tax exclusion for conservation subsidies and supports families investing in water efficiency measures. By incentivizing conservation, Senator Butler’s legislation not only would **address environmental sustainability but also reduces costs for households, contributing to greater economic resilience**.
- ***Black Wealth Agenda Resolution (S.Res. 598)***: Senator Butler [introduced this resolution](#) to address wage disparities faced by Black women. The resolution grounded in policy recommendations from the Black Economic Alliance (BEA) Foundation’s “*Policy Agenda to Advance Black Work, Wages, and Wealth*,” would dismantle systemic barriers to economic prosperity in order to close the racial wealth gap.

Worker Rights and Fair Wages

- ***Thirty-Two Hour Workweek Act (S. 3947)***: As a [co-lead of this groundbreaking legislation](#), Senator Butler advocates for reducing the standard workweek to 32 hours without pay cuts. The bill seeks to ensure that productivity gains from technology are shared with workers, allowing them more time for personal life while maintaining income. This approach addresses the disparity between rising productivity and stagnant wages, promoting a healthier work-life balance.
- ***Black Women’s Equal Pay Resolution (S.Con.Res. 37)***: Senator Butler [introduced this resolution](#) to address wage disparities faced by Black women. The resolution calls for equal pay and fair treatment across industries, highlighting the systemic inequalities that

contribute to wage gaps. By advocating for wage equity, Senator Butler aims to ensure that all women have the opportunity to advance economically.

- ***PRO Act (S. 567)***: A strong advocate for worker rights, Senator Butler cosponsored the PRO Act, which enhances protections for workers to organize, secure fair wages, and improve working conditions. The legislation imposes stricter penalties on employers who violate labor laws and modernizes union practices, reflecting Senator Butler's commitment to a fair and just workplace.

Advocacy and Stakeholder Engagement

- ***Delta Airlines Oversight***: In May 2024, Senator Butler [led a letter](#) to Delta Airlines CEO, urging the adoption of a neutrality agreement during unionization efforts. The letter, signed by 24 of her Democratic Senate colleagues, **emphasized the economic impact of Delta's workforce in California and the importance of respecting workers' rights to unionize**. This effort reflects her commitment to worker rights and equitable economic policies.
- ***Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)***: Senator Butler advocated for continued funding of the ACP, ensuring that more than 2.9 million Californians can maintain affordable internet access. Recognizing that internet connectivity is essential for participating in the modern economy, this effort aims to bridge the digital divide and enhance economic opportunities for underserved communities.