Congressional Briefing on Work and Family Policies in the United States and Canada

On June 22, 2016, the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) and the Work and Family Researchers Network (WFRN) coordinated a briefing in which panelists presented current research on work and family policies to a room full of congressional staffers. The Senate briefing on "**New Health and Economic Research on Work and Family Policies in the United States and Canada**," sponsored by Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), highlighted research on the benefits of family leave policies, who accesses benefits, and barriers to usage.

Earlier in the day, researchers from across the country and around the globe also had the opportunity to meet with legislators and their staff in more than 100 congressional offices to share their perspectives on these issues. The meetings (and pre-meeting training sessions) were coordinated by the National Partnership for Women & Families and the Washington Center for Equitable Growth. Both the congressional briefing and the "educate your legislators" activities were scheduled in conjunction with the June 23-25, 2016 WFRN Conference.

You can watch the congressional briefing in full here. **Leticia Mederos**, Director of Labor Policy for Senator Patty Murray, welcomed participants to the event, and four researchers presented their findings on the following topics (click on the titles to access their presentation slides):

Christopher Ruhm, Ph.D., Professor of Public Policy and Economics, University of Virgini*a*
Assessing Paid Family Leave in the United States

Ankita Patnaik*,* Ph.D., Researcher, Mathematica Policy Research
Quebec Paid Parental Leave and the 'Daddy Quota': Effects on Housework, Child Care, and Paid Work

Patricia A. Stoddard-Dare*,* Ph.D., Associate Professor of Social Work, Cleveland State University
Health Care Costs Associated with Lack of Paid Sick Days

Jenna Stearns*,* Graduate Associate, Broom Center for Demography, University of California, Santa Barbara
Health Effects of Temporary Disability Insurance and Paid Sick Days

Heidi Hartmann, President and CEO of the IWPR and Chair of the WFRN Committee to Connect Research, Policy and Practice, moderated the briefing, and **Jerry Jacobs**, Professor of Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania and Founding President of the WFRN, assessed the implications of the research for public policy.