



For Immediate Release

June 16, 2016

Contact: Ken Scudder, 202-295-7664

Ken_Scudder@jec.senate.gov

<http://www.jec.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/democrats>

10 Facts about Fathers and the U.S. Economy

WASHINGTON – To celebrate Father’s Day, Joint Economic Committee (JEC) Ranking Member Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) has released a list of [10 facts about fathers in the U.S.](#), highlighting what they contribute to the U.S. economy and the challenges they face.

“The days of the dad who works 9 to 5 and only sees his children nights and weekends are gone,” Ranking Member Maloney said. “Today, fathers are taking a more active role in raising their children and keeping a home. We need policies, like paid family leave, that allow fathers to be more active in the lives of their children.”

Rep. Maloney is widely recognized as a leader in the U.S. House of Representatives on women’s and family issues. She has written bills to provide [paid parental leave](#) for federal employees for the birth or adoption of a child, authorize employees to ask [for flexible work schedules](#) to balance responsibilities at home and work and expand the Family and Medical Leave Act to cover more employees and better meet the needs of all American families.

For Mother’s Day in May, Rep. Maloney and the JEC Democratic staff released [10 facts about American mothers](#), including what they add to the U.S. economy, and the challenges they face. In April, the Democratic staff produced the report “[Gender Pay Inequality – Consequences for Women, Families and the Economy](#).”

Father's Day 2016

10 Economic Facts about Fathers that May Surprise You

Four in five American men are fathers by the time they turn 45.

Altogether, more than 70 million fathers live in the United States.

Twenty-nine million fathers live with a child under the age of 18.

Housework and child care are being done by fathers twice as much as in 1967. But mothers still spend more time on housework and child care than fathers, even when both parents work full time.

Eighty-five percent of fathers living with their children work full time.

Roughly \$2 trillion was earned by fathers for their families in 2014. However, stagnant wages for men over the past several decades have hurt many fathers' earnings. Men in their prime parenting years have seen about a four percent drop in median weekly earnings since 1979.

Sixty percent of married-couple families depend on two incomes for their financial security. That is up from only 25 percent in 1960.

Dads today are more likely to stay at home to take care of their children. In 2012, 21 percent of fathers who were not working did so to take care of their families, up from 5 percent in 1989.

A study of U.S. fathers showed that those who took at least two weeks of paternity leave were more actively involved in their child's care nine months later. Studies from other countries also show that taking more paternity leave increases fathers' engagement with their children. Research confirms that this leads to better developmental outcomes for children. It is also associated with higher earnings for mothers.

Yet, while about 90 percent of fathers take some leave after the arrival of a child, fewer than one in three fathers use more than 10 days. Only 13 percent of fathers who take parental leave are paid for that time. Surveys suggest that the lack of paid leave and an expectation that fathers should prioritize work over family keep many fathers from taking more time off when a child arrives.

###