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Stand With Women campaign gets underway

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By [Maggie Shepard](#) / Journal Staff Writer

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Wednesday marked 95 years of an American woman’s right to vote. It also marked the launch of an social justice activist campaign targeting laws the local group says unfairly burden the lives of women and poor people, especially non-whites in those two groups.

The Con Mujeres o Contra Mujeres campaign, or Stand With Women or Stand in the Way, is SouthWest Organizing Project and an Organizers in the Land of Enchantment effort to push legislation that helps secure tax funding for and access to programs that supply early childhood education, food subsidies, reproductive health and environment oversight. It also includes plans to fight laws that make funding or access to such programs more difficult.

Albuquerque City Councilor Isaac Benton, City Council President Rey Garduño and state Reps. Georgene Louis, D-Albuquerque, and Patricia Roybal Caballero, D-Albuquerque, along with members of other social justice groups joined the effort’s launch Wednesday at SWOP headquarters near Downtown. SWOP is a social justice organizing group.

“On Women’s Equality Day, we remember a long history of inequalities and injustices” against women, Roybal Caballero said. “It takes the united effort of a community to raise the issues that must be raised.”

Whereas 95 years ago, the issue was a woman’s right to vote, issues now include police brutality as well as access to affordable food, health care and education, speakers said Wednesday.

Specifically targeted are a city bill called the Fair Work Week Act, a proposal to require employers to offer paid sick leave and establish employee schedules three weeks in advance, and state efforts to increase work requirements for some recipients of food stamps.

The Fair Work Week Act, introduced by councilors Benton and Klarissa Peña, met with opposition and was withdrawn.

“But we’re not giving up. We’re not going away,” Benton said. “I’m proud to stand with women here with you.”

The bill, he said, would help single mothers and others working minimum-wage jobs.

Meanwhile, Gov. Susana Martinez’s administration in 2014 proposed reinstating work requirements for some food stamp recipients, a move SWOP members and others Wednesday said would limit the amount of nutritious food reaches poor children, particularly poor, nonwhite children, in the state.

Those requirements go into effect Jan. 1.

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