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### Female President: Final Blow to Patriarchy

The United States still hasn't had a woman president, which stands out in a country that values democracy and equality. Electing a woman to the highest office wouldn't just address this issue; it would also bring about positive changes for society. A woman president could promote better leadership, focus on women's health and economic issues, and inspire future generations to step into leadership roles. Studies suggest that women leaders tend to work in a more cooperative and inclusive way, which can lead to a government that truly represents its people.

These leadership skills—marked by empathy, consensus, and sensitivity to the well-being of community—are increasingly recognized today as vital to the resolution of complex problems of society. As the Baker Institute explains, "women leaders tend to prioritize issues such as maternal health and child care, areas that have historically been underrepresented in policy discussions" (Baker Institute). This focus not only closes key policy gaps but also testifies to a more cohesive mode of government focused on long-term social stability instead of short-term political gain. One such example is Vice President Kamala Harris's support of the "Blueprint for Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis," a policy agenda that seeks to confront reproductive health inequities and system disparities in maternal health, particularly among women of color. With her raising of such issues to the national stage, Harris demonstrates the ability of female leadership to redefine policy priorities such that they include voices and concerns previously denied space in the process.

Her work points to a greater trend: where women are in power, they are more likely to use their position for advancing equity-minded policies, deepening the democratic experience. Public opinion also demonstrates this shifting view of what women can do as leaders. A Pew Research Center poll found that "a significant portion of the American public believes a woman president would handle education and health care better than a male counterpart" (Pew Research Center). Such an attitude reflects greater trust in women to manage critical sectors impacting daily life.

The connection between women's leadership and improved outcomes in these fields may be because women are believed to be more attuned to the social determinants of education and health, such as family, community support systems, and accessibility. These attitudes can feed into a positive feedback loop: the more women lead and succeed, the more public support there will be for inclusive leadership styles, opening up further opportunities for diverse voices to ascend to power. A woman president is essential if the United States is going to be devoted to finding solutions to women's unique and persistent challenges—challenges long displaced and minimized by patriarchal leadership. As the Baker Institute points out, "a woman in the White House may not only bring new energy to these issues but also signal to society that these concerns deserve top-tier attention" (Baker Institute). This is symbolism and movement toward solving issues on the horizon like the nation's admittedly alarming maternal mortality rate, which disproportionately damages women of color. Until this is sorted out by a concerned and committed leader, actual change will be outdated.

In addition, women leaders have always shown stronger commitment to reproductive rights and gender equality—both issues usually shunned or politicized by men politicians. Vox underscored that during Hillary Clinton's campaign, "female leaders, including Hillary Clinton, have prioritized women's health and reproductive rights, areas often sidelined by male counterparts"

(Vox, "Want to Improve the Health"). This consistent focus makes clear that electing a woman isn't just about representation, it is about realigning the policy priorities on justice and fairness. To deny this is to persist in a system that shortchanges millions of women and communities of color. Electing a woman as president isn't just long overdue—it is necessary to a more fair and effective government. Representation matters deeply because it influences aspirations and what individuals believe is possible. When women see other women in positions of leadership, it encourages them to challenge long-standing stereotypes regarding who can be in charge and gives them a tangible sense of possibility. Vox highlights that "detailed empirical studies by the Equality of Opportunity Project show that girls who grow up in places where there are an unusually large number of woman inventors are unusually likely to themselves grow up to become inventors" (Vox, "2020 Presidential Election"). This is concrete proof that representation is symbolic no more—its influence readily affects future opportunities and career paths. A woman president would be an even more powerful role model, mobilizing the imagination of girls and women everywhere to envision themselves as leaders at the pinnacle.

Besides inspiring ambition, a woman president would start to erode long-standing gender stereotypes associating leadership with maleness. The Conversation states that "voters now hold clear and positive stereotypes of women politicians," and the report shows "women politicians now surpass men politicians in three out of the four leadership traits: competence, empathy and integrity" (The Conversation). These shifts in public attitudes show that the electorate is increasingly embracing female leadership and recognizes the unique skill sets women can apply to office. Selecting a woman president is therefore more than symbolic representation; it's a strategic step in furthering barrier-breaking, redefining leadership, and establishing a more balanced political climate for future generations. Selecting a woman president would not only

correct a historical injustice but also introduce actual and lasting change in the manner our country is governed.

By adopting inclusive leadership and policy initiatives focusing on women's health, economic disparity, and social justice, a woman president would indeed embody the finest principles of equality and progress ahead. She would be more than a symbol; she would create hope among future generations and encourage a government that reflects the full diversity and power of the American people. The time has come for the United States to have a president who represents all of its citizens—because the nation is ready for a woman president.

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