

□ 1015

LILLY LEDBETTER FAIR PAY ACT
AND PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of two critical bills: the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and the Paycheck Fairness Act.

More than 40 years have passed since the passage of the Equal Pay Act. Unfortunately, women still earn less than men for the same work, and that is unfair. Women earn 78 cents for every dollar earned by men. The pay gap is even more severe amongst minority women. African American women earn 69 cents. Hispanic women earn just 56 cents on the dollar.

The story of Lilly Ledbetter is a case in point of the barriers faced by women today. It's time for a change. Simply because of her gender, Ms. Ledbetter was paid 20 percent less for performing the same job that her male colleagues performed. It's unfair.

The gap doesn't just affect women. It affects the Nation's economy. Women represent 41 percent of the total heads of households and sole income earners in this country. We cannot afford to weaken the ability of our breadwinners to pay for the basics, like groceries, child care and health care, especially as we face a growing economic recession.

I urge us to support this legislation.

HOUSE GOP TALKERS ON
STIMULUS

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. As every American knows, this economy is hurting, and millions of Americans are anxious.

House Republicans applaud our President-elect for focusing on legislation. Today, President-elect Obama will say that this Congress must act boldly and act now, and we agree. He has invited House Republicans to bring forward ideas to stimulate this economy, and we will gladly do so, but the American people know we cannot borrow and spend and bail our way back to a growing economy.

In that vein, House Republicans will insist that tax relief go to taxpayers, that it be permanent and that it create jobs. We'll demand a stimulus plan to be transparent and accountable and achieve its intended results. As this legislation is developed, there will be the need for competing interests and for compromise, but let this point be clear:

In this cause, in the cause of stimulus legislation, House Republicans will be on the side of the people who will pay for the stimulus bill. House Republicans will be on the side of the American taxpayer and will demand a stimulus plan that will turn loose the

inherent power of the American economy, a stimulus plan that will be accountable, transparent and will achieve the intended result.

AMERICA'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY
PLAN

(Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, as we begin the 111th Congress this week, we are plagued by an economic crisis that continues to affect every family in America. We must act now to address these serious challenges or we could experience an even deeper economic downturn and continued job losses this year.

Passing an economic recovery package that provides a short-term economic boost and that invests in America's future is a priority for this new Congress.

Rebuilding our crumbling roads, bridges and schools will create jobs today and will transform our economy tomorrow. Making public buildings more energy efficient will reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and will create high-wage jobs in all communities.

We must invest in our aging water and sewer systems. Fifty- and 100-year-old pipes lack the capacity to support our growing population and to preserve and protect our Nation's drinking water.

Mr. Speaker, these problems are not partisan, and our solution should not be either. Democrats and Republicans must come together now to get our economy back on track and to reinvest in America's financial future.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF THE
LATE SENATOR CLAIBORNE PELL

(Mr. BISHOP of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of the late Senator Claiborne Pell, who passed away last week after an inspiring career as a Senator from Rhode Island and as a strong advocate for higher education. Most famously, Senator Pell authored legislation in 1972 that created the higher education grant program that bears his name and that has allowed millions of low- and middle-income students to attend college.

Senator Pell was known as a modest man, and he often shied away from the attention he received for creating the Pell Grant program, originally entitled the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant, and that was modeled after the GI bill. Senator Pell believed that the fastest way for Americans to prosper was through education and that making education accessible was essential.

While grant awards under Senator Pell's program have risen since it was first enacted, they have not kept pace with the rising cost of attending college. Despite the efforts of the 110th

Congress through the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act to raise the Pell Grant maximum to \$6,000 per year, many families are still burdened by the rising costs of higher education.

In the 111th Congress, I hope we continue Senator Pell's goal of educating our youth by working to ensure adequate funding for all forms of student financial aid such as the Perkins loan program and SEOG. Funding for these programs will help to ensure that higher education is affordable and accessible to all students regardless of one's income or background.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDEN). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 12:55 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 20 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 12:55 p.m.

□ 1301

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order at 1 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.

COUNTING ELECTORAL VOTES—
JOINT SESSION OF THE HOUSE
AND SENATE HELD PURSUANT
TO THE PROVISIONS OF SENATE
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 1

At 1:01 p.m., the Majority Floor Services Chief, Barry Sullivan, announced the Vice President and the Senate of the United States.

The Senate entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, headed by the Vice President and the Secretary of the Senate, the Members and officers of the House rising to receive them.

The Vice President took his seat as the Presiding Officer of the joint convention of the two Houses, the Speaker of the House occupying the chair on his left. Senators took seats to the right of the rostrum as prescribed by law.

The joint session was called to order by the Vice President.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Madam Speaker and Members of Congress, pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the United States, the Senate and House of Representatives are meeting in joint session to verify the certificates and count the votes of the electors of the several States for President and Vice President of the United States.

After ascertainment has been had that the certificates are authentic and correct in form, the tellers will count and make a list of the votes cast by the electors of the several States.

The tellers on the part of the two Houses will take their places at the clerk's desk.

The tellers, Mr. SCHUMER and Mr. BENNETT on the part of the Senate, and

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania and Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California on the part of the House, took their places at the desk.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, the tellers will dispense with reading formal portions of the certificates. After ascertaining that certificates are regular in form and authentic, the tellers will announce the votes cast by the electors for each State, beginning with Alabama.

The tellers then proceeded to read, count, and announce the electoral votes of the several States in alphabetical order.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Members of Congress, the certificates having been read, the tellers will ascertain and deliver the result to the President of the Senate.

The tellers delivered to the President of the Senate the following statement of results:

JOINT SESSION TO COUNT ELECTORAL VOTES,
THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2009

Electoral votes of each State	For President		For Vice President	
	Barack Obama	John McCain	Joseph Biden	Sarah Palin
Alabama—9		9		9
Alaska—3		3		3
Arizona—10		10		10
Arkansas—6		6		6
California—55	55		55	
Colorado—9	9		9	
Connecticut—7	7		7	
Delaware—3	3		3	
District of Columbia—3	3		3	
Florida—27	27		27	
Georgia—15		15		15
Hawaii—4	4		4	
Idaho—4		4		4
Illinois—21	21		21	
Indiana—11	11		11	
Iowa—7	7		7	
Kansas—6		6		6
Kentucky—8		8		8
Louisiana—9		9		9
Maine—4	4		4	
Maryland—10	10		10	
Massachusetts—12	12		12	
Michigan—17	17		17	
Minnesota—10	10		10	
Mississippi—6		6		6
Missouri—11		11		11
Montana—3		3		3
Nebraska—5		4		4
Nevada—5	5		5	
New Hampshire—4		4		4
New Jersey—15	15		15	
New Mexico—5	5		5	
New York—31	31		31	
North Carolina—15	15		15	
North Dakota—3		3		3
Ohio—20	20		20	
Oklahoma—7		7		7
Oregon—7	7		7	
Pennsylvania—21	21		21	
Rhode Island—4	4		4	
South Carolina—8		8		8
South Dakota—3		3		3
Tennessee—11		11		11
Texas—34		34		34
Utah—5		5		5
Vermont—3		3		3
Virginia—13	13		13	
Washington—11	11		11	
West Virginia—5		5		5
Wisconsin—10	10		10	
Wyoming—3		3		3
Total—538				

CHARLES E. SCHUMER,
ROBERT F. BENNETT,
Tellers on the part of the Senate.
ROBERT A. BRADY of Pennsylvania,
DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California,
Tellers on the part of the House of Representatives.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The state of the vote for President of the United

States, as delivered to the President of the Senate, is as follows:

The whole number of the electors appointed to vote for President of the United States is 538, of which a majority is 270.

Barack Obama of the State of Illinois has received for President of the United States 365 votes.

JOHN McCAIN of the State of Arizona has received 173 votes.

The state of the vote for Vice President of the United States, as delivered to the President of the Senate, is as follows:

The whole number of the electors appointed to vote for Vice President of the United States is 538, of which a majority is 270.

JOE BIDEN of the State of Delaware has received for Vice President of the United States 365 votes.

Sarah Palin of the State of Alaska has received 173 votes.

This announcement of the state of the vote by the President of the Senate shall be deemed a sufficient declaration of the persons elected President and Vice President of the United States each for the term beginning on the 20th day of January, 2009, and shall be entered, together with the list of the votes, on the Journals of the Senate and House of Representatives.

The purpose of the joint session having been concluded, pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 1, 111th Congress, the Chair declares the joint session dissolved.

(Thereupon, at 1 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m., the joint session of the two Houses of Congress dissolved.)

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 1, 111th Congress, the electoral vote will be spread at large upon the Journal.

RECESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 39 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1406

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SALAZAR) at 2 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DeFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHERMAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FRANKS of Arizona addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GOHMERT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

STIMULUS PACKAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

What I would like to do today is to talk a little bit about the new stimulus package that President-elect Obama