

State of Illinois, women earn nearly \$12,000 a year less than their male counterparts.

During my service in the Army, compared to my male counterparts, I received equal pay for equal work. This policy of fairness has helped make our military the strongest, fiercest in the world.

Pay discrimination doesn't just hurt women; it hurts working families in towns like Itasca and Elgin, Illinois. I know that my neighbors in the Eighth Congressional District believe that their daughters deserve better than this.

Pay equality for women is not only the right thing to do, but it will make our economy stronger; it will make our families stronger; it will make America stronger.

So, on Equal Pay Day, let us recommit ourselves to doing everything in our power to end pay inequality for our country. Congress needs to act now and pass the Paycheck Fairness Act so that women have the opportunity to stand up to this discrimination.

CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Safe Climate Caucus to challenge the Republicans on the Energy and Commerce Committee to a debate on climate change.

In the last Congress, the Republicans in our committee voted that climate change is a hoax. They voted 53 times to block action on climate change. They voted to defund research, to block action by EPA to control pollution, to prevent energy efficiency measures from going into effect, and to stop the administration from encouraging developing countries to do their part.

This year, they have gone silent. They refuse to hear the views of our premier scientific institutions, but they won't justify their inaction. They won't hold hearings. They won't listen to experts. That's why the members of the Safe Climate Caucus are challenging them to come to the floor and debate us.

We are elected to solve problems, not to ignore them. Let's have the debate about how to solve the climate issue.

EQUAL PAY DAY

(Ms. FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today, Tuesday, April 9, is Equal Pay Day because it symbolizes how far in 2013 women must work in order to make what their male counterparts earned in 2012. This means that it took more than 3 months in 2013 for women's wages to finally catch up to what men were paid in 2012.

For working mothers who have to put food on the table and the retired women whose income is tied to their former salary, the wage gap means real dollars.

Listen to this. In south Florida, if the wage gap was eliminated, a working woman would have enough money for 51 more weeks of food, 3 months more of mortgage and utility payments, 5 more months of rent, or 1,600 additional gallons of gas.

Equal pay is about fairness and it's about families.

RECOGNITION OF EQUAL PAY DAY

(Ms. EDWARDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Equal Pay Day. It's the day in 2013 when women finally earn what their male peers did in 2012. Put another way, women work 15½ months to make what a man makes in 12.

Fifty years ago, President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act into law. Yet half a century later, women still earn only 77 cents to the dollar compared to their male peers. These gaps are even wider for women of color. African American women earn just 64 cents and Latinas earn 55 cents for every dollar.

Sadly, not a single State or major metropolitan area has eliminated the wage gap. In Maryland, the National Partnership for Women and Families found that women who are employed full time lose \$7.8 billion each year due to this wage gap.

We passed the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act 4 years ago to restore the right of women to challenge unfair pay in court, but here the gap persists. We must pass the Paycheck Fairness Act to strengthen the Equal Pay Act and help gender-based discrimination end once and for all.

We all benefit when women earn equal pay. Closing the wage gap must be an integral part of strengthening America's working families and our economy.

REMEMBERING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JAMES GRISSOM

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

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, for the many in the world to live free, we must rely upon the sacrifices of the few in our armed services. On March 21, we lost Sergeant First Class James Grissom of Hayward, California, while serving Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Sergeant Grissom graduated from Mount Eden High School in 1999, and he earned a degree from the Art Institute of San Francisco before enlisting in the Army. He was assigned to the 4th Battalion, 1st Special Forces

Group. As a Special Forces soldier, Sergeant Grissom was physically and mentally strong and honored with many medals, including the Bronze Star and the NATO Medal.

His work as a soldier brightly illustrates the heroism of the servicemembers who serve our country and are dedicated to protecting our freedom. I am forever grateful for Sergeant Grissom's sacrifice and service.

Even after Sergeant Grissom passed away, his service to others continued. Years ago, Sergeant Grissom chose to be an organ donor, and his organs were used recently to help others in need across the world.

We shall not forget the sacrifice and honor of Sergeant Grissom. For his country, he gave his life; for the rest of the world, he gives his body.

EQUAL PAY DAY

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

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today, as we mark Equal Pay Day, we face the alarming reality that women still earn just 77 cents for every dollar earned by a man. As a Nation, we must do better than this.

Women in my State of New Hampshire who work full time earn over \$12,000 less every year than men. That wage gap has real consequences. Smaller paychecks make it harder for families to purchase health care, to send their kids to college, and to save for retirement. That doesn't just hurt women; it hurts our entire community and our economy.

To prevent wage discrimination and to protect its victims, Congress must pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. We must recommit ourselves to being a Nation that rewards the hard work of all Americans, regardless of gender. Mothers, sisters, and daughters across New Hampshire deserve nothing less.

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EQUAL PAY DAY

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

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Equal Pay Day and call for passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act.

In my home State of Delaware, a full-time working woman is paid nearly \$10,000 less than a man who works full time. That means women in Delaware make 80 cents for every dollar men make; and for women of color, the pay gap is even worse.

If this pay gap were eliminated, women in my State and across the country would have more money to spend on rent, more money for child care, more money for gas, and more money for food.

Above all, a system that pays men more than women for doing the same

job is just not fair; and as Members of Congress, we should do something to fix it. That's why I'm a cosponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act. This bill would make it harder for employers to engage in discrimination against women in the form of unequal pay.

I urge my colleagues to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act so women in Delaware who do the same jobs for the same hours get the same paycheck as their male counterparts.

EQUAL PAY DAY

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, today is Equal Pay Day, a day to remind all Americans and all my colleagues here in Congress that discrimination and paycheck inequality still exists in the general workplace.

Nationally, women earn only 77 cents for every dollar a man earns. That income disparity must end now. And while women in my home State of California are paid 85 cents for every dollar paid to men, we must do more. To live in a country where women do not earn equal pay for equal work is sad and embarrassing.

What does equality look like, Mr. Speaker? Equality looks like the Civil Rights Act of 1964; equality looks like the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and equality needs to look like the Paycheck Fairness Act, which has yet to be passed.

I urge the Speaker to bring this much needed bill to the House floor as soon as possible.

To my constituents, please join me on Facebook tomorrow for a town hall meeting where I will be answering your questions about equality and what steps we should be taking to achieve equality for all. Please visit Facebook.com/RepLowenthal to join the conversation.

EQUAL PAY DAY

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

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, today we rise in support of Equal Pay Day.

Equal Pay Day symbolizes when more than 3 months into the year women's wages finally catch up with what men were paid in the previous year.

It's unconscionable that women today continue to be blatantly discriminated against in the workforce in terms of their pay and the treatment that they receive.

In 2011, women working full time made only 77 cents to every dollar made by men over the course of a year. The landscape is even worse for women of color. In 2011, African American women earned 64 cents to every dollar earned by white males, and for Latinas

it was only 55 cents and 42 cents in my home State of California. On average, the wage gap costs women roughly \$11,000 annually, and at this rate the wage gap will not close until 2057. Can you imagine that, 2057?

We must support Congresswoman DELAURO's Paycheck Fairness Act. This addresses the serious economic disparities which women still face.

Women and their families cannot afford to continue paying the cost of our inaction in the face of injustice. I hope the Speaker will bring this bill to the floor right away.

EQUAL PAY DAY

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

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Today on April 9, we recognize Equal Pay Day, symbolizing the more than 3 months into this year that women have to work in order for their wages to finally catch up to what their male colleagues earned last year.

Nearly 50 years ago, President John F. Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act to protect workers from gender-based discrimination.

Despite the hard work of countless folks to make pay equality a reality, women today still earn only 77 cents for every dollar earned by men doing the same kind of work. For women of color, the wage gap is even larger.

Clearly, as a Nation, we have more work to do. That's why I'm a proud cosponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would reinforce the Equal Pay Act by closing loopholes and protecting employees from unfair retaliation.

Twice now Democrats have passed this legislation in the House of Representatives only to have it blocked by Senate Republicans.

Equal pay is not a partisan issue. And it's not only a women's issue. This is about America's founding principles of justice for all.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you to bring this important legislation before the House for a full vote.

EQUAL PAY DAY

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

Mr. BERA of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate Equal Pay Day as we mark the 50th anniversary of the Equal Pay Act.

In the last 50 years, women have gone into space and off to war. They've led Fortune 500 companies and served on the Supreme Court. They've been elected Speaker of the House and run for President; yet women still earn only 77 cents for every dollar a man earns.

In the Sacramento area, women lose approximately \$2.2 billion each year because of this pay gap. Now, that's unacceptable and as a father it's personal. I want my daughter to grow up in a

country where her gender is not a barrier to her success.

And the wage gap doesn't just hurt women; it hurts families, businesses, and communities. Women are now nearly half of our workforce, and oftentimes it's up to women to put food on the table and provide for their families. That's why I'm a proud cosponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act, one of the very first bills I chose to cosponsor.

It's time for us to finish what President Kennedy started 50 years ago and what women have been working to achieve for more than a century and make equal pay a reality for millions of Americans.

EQUAL PAY DAY

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tuesday, April 9, as Equal Pay Day for women.

The Equal Pay Act, signed into law by President Kennedy in 1963, amended the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to prohibit sex-based wage discrimination between men and women who perform jobs that require substantially equal skill, effort, and responsibility.

In 1963, women were earning an average of 59 cents on the dollar compared to men. I rise because today on average women earn 77 cents for every dollar a man earns.

In 2013, a study by the United States Census Bureau in Columbus, Ohio, demonstrated that women are paid 81 cents for every dollar paid to men. This amounts to a yearly gap of some \$9,261 between men and women who work full time.

Equal work? It's simple. It deserves equal pay.

I'm proud that the first piece of legislation that President Obama signed into law during his first term was the Lilly Ledbetter Act. I rise for all the Lilly Ledbetters in hopes that one day the wage of workers in this country will be equal regardless of gender.

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GUN LEGISLATION: A PATHWAY TO SAVING LIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, thank you so very much for the opportunity to discuss with my colleagues a