



Monroe County Legislature

HARRY B. BRONSON  
ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC LEADER

HARRY B. BRONSON  
LEGISLATOR - DISTRICT 24  
96 MT. VERNON AVENUE  
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14620  
OFFICE (585) 253-1940  
HOME (585) 233-8389  
FAX (585) 486-1121  
EMAIL harry@bronsonlaw.com

May 7, 2007

To The Honorable  
Monroe County Legislature  
39 West Main Street  
Rochester, New York 14614

Re: **Memorializing the U.S. Congress to Pass, and for President George W. Bush to Sign into Law, Bills S.766 and HR.1338, Enforcing Equal Pay for Equal Work, Regardless of Gender**

Honorable Legislators:

In 1963, the year the Equal Pay Act passed into law, a full-time working woman in the U.S. earned on average 59 cents for every dollar made by a man. Today the average working woman earns 77 cents for every dollar made by men. In short, for the past 42 years the wage gap has decreased by less than half a cent per year. At this rate, closing the wage gap between men and women would take another 50 years.

A recent study conducted by the American Association of University Women Education Foundation determined that in their first year of work after college graduation, women made only 80 percent of the salaries of their male peers. This gap further increased ten years after college, whereas women earned only 69 percent of their male peers. The gap is even wider for minority women, on average, African American women will earn only 71 cents, and Hispanic women 58 cents, for every dollar made by a man.

The struggle for equality has been a long and enduring one: a fight that must be continued as women continue to not receive equal pay for equal work. The Paycheck Fairness Act introduced in the Senate by Hillary Rodham Clinton and in the House by Rosa DeLauro would help to deter wage discrimination and provide more effective resolutions when discrimination occurs. This proposed legislation demands greater accountability from the Department of Labor in enforcing the requirements of the Equal Pay Act, and requires the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) to develop more comprehensive data gathering methods. This bill would also prohibit employers from punishing employees who share their salary information with co-workers.

OFFICIAL FILE COPY
No. 070157
Not to be removed from the Office of the Legislature of Monroe County
Committee Assignment
Memorializing Referral -L

On April 24, 2007 we observed Equal Pay Day, acknowledging the significant wage gap between men and women in this country. This day marks the number of additional days the average working women would have to work in order to earn the same annual salary wages as their male counterparts.

Therefore, I urge you to join me in memorializing the U.S. Congress to pass and President George W. Bush to sign into law bills S.766 and H.R.1338, and support equal pay for work of equal value and promote gender equality in the United States.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Harry B. Bronson*  
Harry B. Bronson  
Assistant Democratic Leader

*Carla M. Palumbo*  
Carla M. Palumbo  
Democratic Leader

*Calvin Lee, Jr.*  
Calvin Lee, Jr.  
Assistant Democratic Leader

*Travis R. Heider*  
Travis R. Heider  
Legislator - District 14

*Stephanie Polowe Aldersley*  
Stephanie Polowe Aldersley  
Legislator - District 16

*Carrie M. Andrews*  
Carrie M. Andrews  
Legislator - District 21

*C. Stephen Eckel*  
C. Stephen Eckel  
Legislator - District 26

*Willie J. Lightfoot*  
Willie J. Lightfoot  
Legislator - District 27