

Message from CLUW following Senate defeat of Paycheck Fairness Act:

June 5, 2012

The Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) is extremely disappointed that the Senate today failed to muster the 60 votes needed to counter a Republican filibuster on the Paycheck Fairness Act.. The vote was 52 in support and 47 opposed. The Republican opposition demonstrates a heartless response to the economic struggle so many American families find themselves in today and a refusal to recognize that discrimination still exists for so many in the workplace.

More than 12 million families with children rely primarily on women's earnings and over a third of mothers in working families in all but two states are the families' primary breadwinners.

Yet women still earn on average 77 cents to each dollar earned by a man. It is estimated in real terms that over a lifetime of work this adds up to a loss of anywhere from \$700,000 to \$2 million in lost wages. This hurts women, families and the economy.

The Paycheck Fairness Act would deter wage discrimination by closing loopholes in the Equal Pay Act and bar retaliation against workers who disclose their wages. The bill strengthens the Equal Pay Act to ensure that effective protection is enacted against sex-based pay discrimination. It also allows women to receive the same remedies for sex-based pay discrimination that are currently available to those subject to discrimination based on race and national origin.

Union women members have an economic advantage: in 2010 union women earned weekly wages that were 28% more than non-union women. However, this applied to 11.1% of working women and CLUW has always advocated on behalf of the needs of all workers.

The fact that the average woman still earns less than a man doing the same job in every state is a travesty.

It is way past time for Congress to do the right thing. It is a question of fairness and the fight for equal pay will continue until the fight is won. You can count on it!!

Thank you for all that you have done in making calls, sending e-mails and arranging visits to your members of congress on this important issue.

To see how your senators voted check out:

http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=112&session=2&vote=00115

To find your senators' contact information so you can thank them for a "yes" vote or let them know how you feel about a "no" vote see:

http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

To keep up the message on Facebook see:

http://static.someecards.com/someecards/usercards/1338931068017_3942401.png

Thank you for all that you do every day to advance the needs of working women.

Carol S. Rosenblatt
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Coalition of Labor Union Women