

“Our Mission Matters”

This year Equal Pay Day will be observed on Tuesday, April 28th. This date symbolizes the day to which women must work into the next year to achieve parity with men. In Michigan women still earn only sixty-seven cents on the dollar, and we rank 49th in the United States.



AAUW's *Behind the Pay Gap*, released in 2007, provided new evidence that sex discrimination continues to be a problem for women. Just one year after college graduation women earn only 80% of what their male counterparts earn. Ten years later women fall further behind and earn only 69% of what men earn.

Facts and figures about pay equity:

- Equal pay is a priority for all women. Ninety percent say that equal pay for equal work is a priority.
- Women of color are impacted even more.
- Women are still largely pigeonholed in “pink-collar” jobs.
- Education and career training are crucial for women.
- The wage gap has long term effects on women’s economic security.

At the national level AAUW strongly supported the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which was signed into law by President Obama on January 29, 2009. This Act restores the ability of victims of wage discrimination to hold their employers accountable for the injustice and challenge the practice in court. On January 9, 2009 the House passed the Paycheck Fairness Act to strengthen enforcement of the Equal Pay Act. The Paycheck Fairness Act would ensure effective remedies for wage discrimination and make it easier to sue on behalf of groups of women. Please urge your senators to support this bill. AAUW of Michigan has supported legislation at the state level that will close the wage gap. Information will be forthcoming on potential new bills that may be introduced.

AAUW of Michigan and a number of other women’s organizations are scheduling an Equal Pay Day event in Lansing on Tuesday, April 28th. . We are encouraging as many people as possible to attend to show support for our efforts. A press conference has been scheduled at noon in the Rotunda of the Capitol building. Cookies with a bite out them will be delivered to all of our legislators to signify “What’s Missing?” Come and join us, wear red, and bolster our continuing quest for equity. After all, pay equity is a simple matter of fairness and justice.

Mickey Edell
Initiative Director
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