

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 18

Session of
2001

INTRODUCED BY ORIE, FICHTER, CAPPABIANCA, LESCOVITZ, BELARDI, DeWEESE, THOMAS, NAILOR, SANTONI, ALLEN, MELIO, CORRIGAN, DALEY, ROEBUCK, BARRAR, READSHAW, TRAVAGLIO, MANDERINO, SCHULER, SHANER, BUXTON, LAUGHLIN, DeLUCA, MANN, ADOLPH, RUBLEY, WILT, BELFANTI, SOLOBAY, STURLA, TIGUE, RUFFING, CLYMER, McILHATTAN, WOJNAROSKI, STABACK, HENNESSEY, YEWCIC, PISTELLA, GEORGE, FRANKEL, BISHOP, YUDICHAK, GRUCELA, SCRIMENTI, KELLER, E. Z. TAYLOR, TULLI, SURRA, HARHAI, CURRY, McNAUGHTON, BARD, PETRARCA, COSTA, M. COHEN, L. I. COHEN, LEVDANSKY, WATSON, BEBKO-JONES, FREEMAN, JOSEPHS, HORSEY AND CIVERA, JANUARY 29, 2001

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, JANUARY 29, 2001

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing Congress to study the issue of workplace pay
2 disparity and the need to reexamine existing Federal laws
3 relating to that issue.

4 WHEREAS, Women work for pay in greater numbers, in more
5 occupations and for more years of their lives than ever before;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, The Equal Pay act of 1963 and Title VII of the Civil
8 Rights Act of 1964 provide a critical foundation for women
9 seeking greater opportunities in the workplace and a paycheck
10 free from stereotypes about the value of women's work; and

11 WHEREAS, Legislative efforts are currently under way on the
12 Federal level which call for enhanced enforcement of wage
13 discrimination laws as well as additional policy initiatives and
14 improved training for government agencies charged with enforcing

1 equal pay requirements under the law; and

2 WHEREAS, The issue of equal pay continues to resonate among
3 women in the 1990s, as illustrated by a 1994 survey conducted by
4 the Department of Labor, Women's Bureau, which found that
5 improving pay and benefits was one of working women's three main
6 priorities for change, along with balancing work and family and
7 gaining respect and opportunity on the job; and

8 WHEREAS, Despite the importance of women to today's economy,
9 women in the 1990s continue to earn less than men for work on
10 jobs that require equal skill, effort and responsibility and
11 that are performed under similar working conditions; and

12 WHEREAS, According to the Department of Labor and Industry,
13 Bureau of Research and Statistics, the trend of more women
14 entering the labor force in Pennsylvania will continue through
15 the year 2005, and women's share of the labor force will
16 continue to increase, exceeding 47%, as a larger proportion
17 looks for jobs; and

18 WHEREAS, The effect of wage disparity follows women
19 throughout their lives, since pension and Social Security
20 benefits are based on pay earned while working; and

21 WHEREAS, The existence of pay disparities depresses the wages
22 of working families who rely on the wages of all members of the
23 family to make ends meet, prevents the maximum utilization of
24 the available labor resources and violates the longstanding
25 public policy of our country against wage discrimination; and

26 WHEREAS, There is still more ground to cover before the wage
27 gap between men's and women's wage is eliminated; and

28 WHEREAS, There is need for a comprehensive reexamination of
29 the role our government's laws play in the daily deterrence of
30 workplace wage discrimination and their effectiveness in

1 ensuring that women receive equal pay for work of equal value;
2 therefore be it

3 RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), that the General Assembly
4 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the Congress of
5 the United States to study the issue of workplace pay disparity
6 and laws relating thereto; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
8 the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each
9 member of Congress from Pennsylvania.