

MEDIA RELEASE

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On Equal Pay Day, Maine Women's Lobby Urges Passage of Paycheck Fairness Act

It's Time To Close the Wage Gap for Women in Maine

Augusta – Today is the nationwide observance of Equal Pay Day 2010 – representing the point when women's wages finally catch up to men's wages from last year. According to the most recent U.S. Census Bureau statistics, women in Maine who work in full-time, year-round jobs earn, on average, 79 cents to every dollar earned by men working in full-time, year-round jobs.

Maine's wage gap leaves women and their families shortchanged by thousands of dollars a year—and hundreds of thousands of dollars over the course of a lifetime. The wage gap not only depresses women's incomes over the short term but also weakens retirement security down the road.

Achieving pay equity means more now than ever before. According to Maria Shriver and the Center for American Progress report, *A Woman's Nation Changes Everything*, women are now the breadwinners or co-breadwinners in two-thirds of all American families. In fact, women now equal men in the labor force, meaning more families rely on women's wages to make ends meet.

That's why everyone – women and men – have such a huge stake in eliminating the wage gap.

On Equal Pay Day, the Maine Women's Lobby calls upon Senator Snowe and Senator Collins to urge passage of The Paycheck Fairness Act. This bill is a sorely needed update to the original Equal Pay Act signed 47 years ago. This legislation passed in the House and the U.S. Senate is currently poised to address it. Right now is the time to encourage Senator Snowe and Senator Collins—both champions of equal pay—to support the Paycheck Fairness Act.

The Maine Women's Lobby is a non-partisan, nonprofit, membership organization working since 1978 to increase opportunities for women and girls through advocacy and legislative action. www.mainewomen.org

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