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July 20, 2010

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## **Maine Women’s Lobby Applauds Equal Pay Recommendation from the White House Middle Class Task Force**

### *Task Force Urges Passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act*

Augusta – Today, the Maine Women’s Lobby applauded new recommendations from the Vice President and members of the White House Middle Class Task Force and Council on Women and Girls to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. This bill would create stronger incentives for employers to follow the law, empower women to negotiate for equal pay, and strengthen federal outreach, education, and enforcement efforts.

“Maine has led the nation in efforts to close the gender wage gap,” said Sarah Standiford, Executive Director of the Maine Women’s Lobby. “Unfortunately, however, women in Maine continue to be paid just 79 cents compared to every dollar earned by a man. That’s why we applaud the Administration’s efforts to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act.”

She continued, “The need for such a law is more urgent today than ever. Families today are more dependent on a woman’s earnings for economic survival than ever before. In the midst of the worst recession since the Great Depression, pay equity is more than a question of fairness—it’s a question of survival.

Simply put: The recovery of the nation’s middle class depends on well-paying jobs which allow women and their families to thrive. That’s why we join the White House Middle Class Task Force in urging the Senate to act upon this critical legislation.”

*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](http://www.mainewomen.org)*

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