

No. R-431. House concurrent resolution designating April 12, 2016 as Equal Pay Day in Vermont.

(H.C.R.338)

Offered by: Representatives Burke of Brattleboro, Gonzalez of Winooski, Morris of Bennington, Ancel of Calais, Batchelor of Derby, Berry of Manchester, Botzow of Pownal, Branagan of Georgia, Briglin of Thetford, Buxton of Tunbridge, Carr of Brandon, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Clarkson of Woodstock, Cole of Burlington, Connor of Fairfield, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Dakin of Chester, Davis of Washington, Deen of Westminster, Donovan of Burlington, Evans of Essex, Frank of Underhill, French of Randolph, Haas of Rochester, Head of South Burlington, Hooper of Montpelier, Jerman of Essex, Jewett of Ripton, Johnson of South Hero, Keenan of St. Albans City, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Klein of East Montpelier, Krowinski of Burlington, Lanpher of Vergennes, Lenes of Shelburne, Long of Newfane, Lucke of Hartford, Manwaring of Wilmington, McCullough of Williston, Miller of Shaftsbury, Mrowicki of Putney, Nuovo of Middlebury, O'Brien of Richmond, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Patt of Worcester, Pearson of Burlington, Pugh of South Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Ram of Burlington, Russell of Rutland City, Ryerson of Randolph, Stevens of Waterbury, Stuart of Brattleboro, Sullivan of Burlington, Sweaney of Windsor, Toleno of Brattleboro, Toll of Danville, Troiano of Stannard, Walz of Barre City, Webb of Shelburne, Wood of Waterbury, Yantachka of Charlotte, and Zagar of Barnard

Offered by: Senators Bray, Ayer, Balint, Campbell, Campion, Collamore, Cummings, Degree, Doyle, MacDonald, McCormack, Nitka, Rodgers, and Zuckerman

Whereas, Equal Pay Day is a symbolic day in the spring, chosen to highlight that, due to the wage gap, women must work well into the next year before their earnings catch up to what men made the year before, and

Whereas, the wage gap in Vermont is 16 percent, with women earning 84 cents for every dollar men earn, and that gap widens to 23 percent when a woman has dependent children and is even wider for women of color, and

Whereas, the wage gap exists in jobs at all levels of pay: women chief executives in Vermont earn 31 percent less than their male counterparts, and

Whereas, the wage gap in Vermont exists in jobs in which women are the majority of workers, including personal care and service workers, who are 74 percent female but have a wage gap of 31 percent, and

Whereas, according to the Institute for Women's Policy Research, equal pay for working women in the United States would result in reductions in poverty for all working families of 50 percent nationally and 57 percent in Vermont, and

Whereas, if working women received equal pay in Vermont, at least one billion dollars would be added into the State's economy, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates April 12, 2016 as Equal Pay Day in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Commission on Women, the League of Women Voters of Vermont, and the Vermont Federation of Business and Professional Women.