

No. R-142. House concurrent resolution recognizing April 2, 2019 as Equal Pay Day in Vermont.

(H.C.R.116)

Offered by: Representatives Burke of Brattleboro, Anthony of Barre City, Austin of Colchester, Bartholomew of Hartland, Beck of St. Johnsbury, Biron of Vergennes, Bock of Chester, Briglin of Thetford, Brownell of Pownal, Brumsted of Shelburne, Carroll of Bennington, Chase of Colchester, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Christensen of Weathersfield, Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Coffey of Guilford, Colburn of Burlington, Colston of Winooski, Conlon of Cornwall, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Cordes of Lincoln, Dolan of Waitsfield, Donovan of Burlington, Elder of Starksboro, Fegard of Berkshire, Forguites of Springfield, Giambatista of Essex, Grad of Moretown, Haas of Rochester, Harrison of Chittenden, Hashim of Dummerston, Hill of Wolcott, Hooper of Montpelier, Houghton of Essex, Howard of Rutland City, James of Manchester, Jerome of Brandon, Jessup of Middlesex, Killacky of South Burlington, Kimbell of Woodstock, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Krowinski of Burlington, LaLonde of South Burlington, Lanpher of Vergennes, Lippert of Hinesburg, Long of Newfane, Masland of Thetford, McCarthy of St. Albans City, McCormack of Burlington, McCullough of Williston, McFaun of Barre Town, Mrowicki of Putney, Nicoll of Ludlow, Notte of Rutland City, Noyes of Wolcott, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Ode of Burlington, Pajala of Londonderry, Partridge of Windham, Patt of Worcester, Pugh of South Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Ralph of Hartland, Redmond of Essex, Rogers of Waterville, Scheu of Middlebury, Sheldon of Middlebury, Stevens of Waterbury, Sullivan of Dorset, Sullivan of Burlington, Szott of Barnard, Toleno of Brattleboro, Townsend of South Burlington, Walz of Barre City, White of Hartford, Wood of Waterbury, and Yantachka of Charlotte

Offered by: Senators Bray, Clarkson, Hardy, Hooker, Lyons, and Nitka

Whereas, since 1996, Equal Pay Day has signified that women who perform comparable work are paid lower wages than their male counterparts, and

Whereas, according to a 2017 report, the wage gap between the genders stands at 19.5 percent nationally, and

Whereas, in Vermont, on average, women earn 86 cents for every dollar that men earn, resulting in a 14 percent wage gap, and

Whereas, although the Vermont wage gap is the sixth-smallest in the country, both in Vermont and nationally, the wage gap for women of color is greater, and

Whereas, the Vermont wage gap is 18.6 percent for Latina women and 39.4 percent for Asian women, and, nationally, the gap for African American women is 39 percent and for Native American women is 42 percent, and

Whereas, nationally, mothers only earn 71 cents for every dollar that fathers are compensated, and

Whereas, if Vermont's working women were paid the same wage as men in comparable jobs, the poverty rate among women would fall, and

Whereas, these stark economic statistics demonstrate the continuing disparities between men's and women's earning power, and

Whereas, it is important to acknowledge these differences as a starting point toward their elimination, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes April 2, 2019 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, and the Vermont Federation of Business and Professional Women.