

Testimony on HB 5591

Subject	Testimony on HB 5591
From	<u>Deborah Johnson</u>
To	LABTestimony
Sent	Thursday, February 16, 2017 9:25 AM

Proposed House Bill No. 5591 *An Act Concerning Pay Equity in the Workforce.*

It is time. It is that simple. Different pay for the same work is simply wrong; it is unacceptable. Our daughter is just entering the workforce; we didn't pay all that college tuition to have her be treated as a second-hand citizen because of her gender. It is outrageous.

And, I (Deborah) am still in the workforce. Over the course of my professional accounting and management career, I have likely lost half a million dollars in pay. Now I worry about retirement!

The gender pay gap is one of the most important, far-reaching issues we face as a society today. It affects not only working women, but their families and their communities as well.

According to the *Center for American Progress*, a woman working full-time earns nearly \$500,000 less than a man over the course of her career.

The pay gap not only affects a woman's day-to-day earning, but it also compromises her future retirement.

The median income of women 65 and older is 44% less than men in the same age group. Women 75 and older are almost twice as likely as men to be living under the poverty line.

This is due, in large part, to the cumulative financial loss years of pay inequality produces.

This gap affects all women, regardless of their level of education. In fact, the higher the level of education, the larger the pay gap grows. Often times, men who are less educated out-earn women with higher degrees. Women with a graduate degree earn an average of \$5,000 less than men with a bachelor's degree.

We have made gains, but progress is slow. At the current rate, we will not fully close the pay gap until 2059. That is why we need legislation like HB 5591. Forty-two years is just too long to wait.

Please support HB 5591. We'll be watching.
Deborah Johnson, Hamden
Joseph Paolillo, Hamden

Deborah Johnson & Joseph Paolillo

Deborah L. Johnson
66 Thompson St.
Hamden Connecticut 06518
203-287-1282
203-430-5554