

to join me in congratulating Vera on reaching this incredible milestone, and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

EQUAL PAY DAY: TIME TO CLOSE THE WAGE GAP

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Equal Pay Day and call for long overdue passage of legislation to strengthen the Equal Pay Act.

According to the American Association of University Women, women in my state of New Jersey have a wage gap of 80 percent—for every dollar men in New Jersey make, women make only 80 cents. Nationally, it's 78 cents.

All told, over the lifetime of work, college educated women will lose an estimated \$1.2 million as a result of the pay gap.

The wage gap is not just a women's issue, it's a family issue. Four in 10 American households with children now include a mother who is either the sole or primary earner for her family. Closing the wage gap would allow women to invest more in their children's health and wellbeing and help boost economic stability and security for American families.

As a remedy, I twice supported the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, now Public Law 111-2. By overturning the United States Supreme Court decision in Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire and Rubber, we restored and enhanced both the protections against pay discrimination in the workplace and the remedies available for women who have been discriminated against.

While the Ledbetter law was a clear step in the right direction, the numbers demonstrate how much more work we as a society have to do.

Today, I signed on as a cosponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act—legislation I have pre-

viously supported twice when it was brought to the floor of the House for a vote.

The Paycheck Fairness Act would increase penalties for employers who pay different wages to men and women for equal work, create a grant program for negotiation skills training for women and girls, and increase training and outreach to ensure effective implementation.

This legislation would build on the Equal Pay Act and the Ledbetter law by disincentivizing pay discrimination and encouraging employers to enforce equal pay for equal work.

Mr. Speaker, based on data between 2003 and 2013, AAUW predicts that if current trends continue, the wage gap will not close for 124 years.

Over 50 years after the signing of the Equal Pay Act, we are still more than a century away from equal pay.

The Paycheck Fairness Act is necessary to reverse the current trajectory and help accelerate progress to our shared goal of equal work for equal pay.

A TRIBUTE TO CAMERON MICKAEL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the heroic actions of sixth-grader, Cameron Mickael of Mount Ayr, Iowa.

On a recent Sunday night, Cameron was eating dinner with his mother, Cindy, and Grandfather Charles, when a piece of food became lodged in his grandfather's throat. Charles was trying to apply the Heimlich to himself with no success. It was then that Cameron stepped in. Cameron jumped up, grabbed his grandfather and performed the Heimlich. Charles credits Cameron with saving his life.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to represent future leaders like Cameron Mickael in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I applaud his lifesaving effort today. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Cameron, thanking him for a job well done, and wishing him a bright future.

A TRIBUTE TO JAMES HARDY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James Hardy, history teacher at East Union School. Mr. Hardy received the Gilder Lehrman Iowa History Teacher of the Year award.

This award, sponsored by Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, recognizes outstanding American history teachers who possess a strong commitment to teaching American history and who exhibit creativity and imagination in the classroom. Each year, the Institute enhances the education of more than a million students by offering support and resources to tens of thousands of teachers. The Institute's programs have been recognized by awards from the White House, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Organization of American Historians.

I applaud and congratulate James for providing the youth in Iowa's 3rd district the education that they will need to be successful in the future and for being recognized with this prestigious award. I am proud to represent him, his fellow teachers and students in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating James Hardy and wishing him well and continued success in the future.