

April 3, 2001

PAYCHECK EQUITY EQUAL PAY
DAY

HON. MIKE HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, today is a significant day for American families. On one hand, it represents injustice, marking the amount of time required for a woman to earn the same pay as a man: an additional three months into the next year. On the other hand, this day marks the continuation of an ongoing struggle, the battle for an American ideal: Equality.

Today, I stand in support of working women and the American family. Today, I stand in support of equal pay for equal work.

On Equal Pay Day, we are reminded of the facts in the contemporary American workplace:

The average working woman working full time earns about 76 cents for each dollar earned by the average man;

The median wages of female college graduates fall behind those of male college graduates by \$14,665;

This pay disparity applies for all age groups. For example, women ages 35–44 earned about 72 cents per dollar and women ages 45–54 earned about 70 cents per dollar, compared to men.

The inequality in pay is not just morally wrong; it renders real harm on American families and our national economy. This gender wage gap means \$4,000 less per American family and over \$200 billion less in the American economy.

We need to act now, and that is why I support H.R. 781, "The Paycheck Fairness Act," authored by my distinguished colleague, the distinguished gentle lady from Connecticut, ROSA DELAURO. This bill creates stronger enforcement, greater measurement, and better incentives against discrimination in wages based on gender.

These are the facts, and they challenge our national integrity. They challenge our commitment to equal rights and equal treatment. They challenge us to action. The majority of Americans support equal pay for equal work. It is time for Congress and the President to finally hold our nation accountable to the promise and ideals embedded in our Constitution.

EQUAL PAY PROTECTION

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, when President John F. Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act into law on June 10, 1963, women on average earned 61 cents for each dollar earned by a man.

Today, working women only earn 73 cents for every dollar earned by men, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

President Kennedy told his fellow citizens that he was taking the first step in addressing "the unconscionable practice of paying female

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

employees less wages than male employees for the same job."

While progress has been made, still more needs to be done and, if Congress acts this year, more can be achieved.

In my state of California, families lose a staggering 21 billion dollars of income annually to the wage gap.

If women in California received equal pay, poverty in single mom households would go from 19.2 percent to 9.2 percent.

Women in the Inland empire for example loss on average 4 thousand dollars every year because of unequal pay.

This is money that can't buy groceries, housing, child care, clothing for their families.

I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 781, The Paycheck Fairness Act and the Fair Pay Act, legislation currently pending in Congress that is designed to help eliminate the wage gap that still exists between men and women.

Many working women lack the basic benefits they need in order to care for their families.

They are our grandmothers, mothers, wives, sisters, daughters, and colleagues.

They are our doctors, lawyers, teachers, caregivers, and leaders.

Women lawyers earn \$300 less than male attorneys.

Female doctors make \$500 less than their male colleagues.

Wages for female nurses, where 95 percent are women, are \$30 less each week than male nurses who only make up 5 percent.

Waitresses weekly earnings are \$50 less than waiters' earnings.

The situation is even worse for women of color. African American women earn only 67 cents and Latinas 58 cents for every dollar that men earn.

The wage gap impacts women's retirement also. Women have less to save for their futures and will earn smaller pensions than men.

We need to recognize working women and we need to pay them equally.

On the job, working women are looking for higher pay, better benefits and, most of all, the three "Rs": Respect, Recognition and Reward for a job well done.

Half of all older women receive a private pension in 1998 got less than \$3,486 per year, compared with \$7,020 per year for older men.

Before the end of this year, let's pass this legislation to finally make the work of America's women valued, fair, equitable and just.

Let's work to bring equal pay to every woman in America.

They deserve it and their families deserve it. Let's get the job done.

TRIBUTE TO JASON WILLIAMS

HON. MICHAEL FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Plainfield, New Jersey's own star, Jason Williams. Jason, who is an All-American basketball player for Duke University, lead his team in their 82–72 NCAA National Championship victory over Arizona on Monday night, April 2, 2001.

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All of Plainfield and New Jersey are proud of our hometown hero, Jason Williams. As a student athlete, he has shown tremendous leadership and dedication while playing at an incredible level—all while under the pressure of the national spotlight.

The top-ranked Duke Blue Devils won the national title Monday night under the leadership of Jason Williams. The 6'2" point guard has been one of the Duke's biggest offensive weapons all season. After scoring 16 points in the win over the University of Arizona Wildcats, the All-American guard has scored 154 points in six tournament games (ninth of all-time). A pass from Williams enabled Shane Battier to score a slam-dunk, making the score 77–72 with 2:31 left on the clock. Then Williams clinched the Blue Devils' victory with a 3 point shot with 1:45 left, giving the Blue Devils an eight-point lead.

Williams has been a leader all season long in the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC), registering 21 points and 6.3 assists a game and earning the All-ACC First Team nod as well as the East Regional's Most Outstanding Player. Williams spent this past summer helping to train the U.S. Olympic basketball team as a member of the U.S. Select Team that scrimmaged against the Dream Team.

As a graduate of St. Joseph's High School in Metuchen, New Jersey, Williams lettered in basketball all four years. Among the awards he won: the Morgan Wooten Award given annually to the nation's top prep school player, first team All-America selection as a high school senior by USA Today, Street & Smith, and Hoop Scoop, two-time all-state selection, first team all-county, all-area, and all-Parochial accolades during his career. As a two-time team captain, he set school records for most points scored in one game with 43 and the most total points with 1,993 high school career points, averaging 24.0 points, 8.0 assists, 4.0 rebounds, and 3.0 steals.

I commend Jason Williams for his leadership and congratulate the Blue Devils on their victory.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF CESAR
CHAVEZ

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the great American heroes of our time, Cesar E. Chavez. Throughout his life, Cesar embraced nonviolent tactics to lift up the lives and spirits of millions of people and to advance the cause of equality and social change, particularly for migrant farm workers.

At an early age, young Cesar and his family were forced from their ranch because of an unscrupulous land deal. They went to work in the fields. Cesar traveled throughout California and followed the seasonal work and attended 37 schools before dropping out after the Eighth grade in a great sacrifice to his father, who was injured in an accident, and his mother, whom he didn't want to work in the fields.