



# NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON PAY EQUITY

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## For Immediate Release

Washington, D.C. – On Equal Pay Day on April 24, the National Committee on Pay Equity will join The WAGE Project in issuing the results of a WAGE grassroots survey that shows the need for new federal legislation to help close the gap between men's and women's wages.

The survey results will be announced by WAGE President Evelyn Murphy at a rally, organized by Women Work!, at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday on the west lawn of the U.S. Capitol. Other speakers at the rally will include Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Ia.) and Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.), sponsors of the Fair Pay Act, and Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.) and Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.), sponsors of the Paycheck Fairness Act. Both bills are supported by NCPE member organizations as means to address and help close the wage gap.

Latest Census figures show women earning 77 cents, on average, for every dollar men earn among full-time, year-round workers. The wage gap is worse for most women of color, with Latinas earning 59 cents and African American women earning 72 cents for every dollar men earn. Equal Pay Day, an annual public awareness event originated by NCPE in 1996, symbolizes how far into 2007 women must work to earn what men earned in 2006. Studies in 2003 and 2004 by the GAO and Census Bureau that controlled for such work-related factors as experience and education still found a 20 percent wage gap between women and men.

This is an issue for families, in which two adult wage earners may take home only one and three-quarter salaries rather than two, and female heads of households are particularly hard hit. Economist Murphy estimates that over a working life of 47 years, the average woman will earn from \$700,000 to \$2 million less than the average man, depending on her educational level. Lower lifetime earnings also mean lower pensions and Social Security payments, resulting in larger numbers of older women living in poverty.

“In 1963, women earned 59 cents for every dollar men earned,” according to Michele Leber, NCPE Chair. “At the rate the wage gap is closing, it will be 2057 before women close the gap and are paid equitably for the work they do, based on the skill, effort, responsibility, and working conditions of the job – and not on who fills it.”

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