

## *Paycheck Fairness Act Coalition*

### **New Polling Data Shows Voters Overwhelming Support the Paycheck Fairness Act**

In a nationwide poll of registered voters, **84% said they supported** “a new law that would provide women more tools to get fair pay in the workplace.” Participants were told that the “law will also make it harder for employers to justify paying different wages for the same work and ensure that businesses that break the law compensate women fairly.” **72% of respondents strongly supported such a law.**<sup>1</sup>

*Members of All Political Parties Strongly Support Improving our Equal Pay Laws:*

**91% of Democrats, 77% of Republicans and 87% of Independents** supported the new law. **83% of Democrats, 61% of Republicans and 70% of Independents strongly supported the new law.**

*Women and Men Strongly Support Improving our Equal Pay Laws:*

**87% of women and 81% of men** supported the new law. **74% of women and 69% of men strongly supported the new law.**

*Members of all Racial and Ethnic Groups Strongly Support Improving our Equal Pay Laws:*

**82% of Blacks, 84% of Hispanics and 86% of Whites** supported the new law. **74% of Blacks, 74% of Hispanics and 73% of Whites strongly supported the new law.**

*Voters in All Geographic Regions Strongly Support Improving our Equal Pay Laws:*

**84% of the Northeast, 86% of the Midwest, 84% of the South and 80% of the West** supported the new law. **73% of the Northeast, 71% of the Midwest, 73% of the South and 69% of the West strongly supported the new law.**

### **To Protect Families’ Economic Security, the Senate Needs to Pass the Paycheck Fairness Act**

In 2008, women working full-time, year-round were paid only about 77 cents for every dollar paid to men. African-American women were paid only 61 cents, and Latinas only 52 cents, for every dollar paid to by white, non-Hispanic men.<sup>2</sup>

The pay gap translates into \$10,622 a year<sup>3</sup> or \$431,000 over a woman’s lifetime of lost earnings.<sup>4</sup>

Women are responsible for the economic security of their families. Nearly four in ten mothers (39.3%) are primary breadwinners, bringing home the majority of the family’s earnings, and nearly two-thirds (62.8%) are breadwinners or co-breadwinners, bringing home at least a quarter of the family’s earnings.<sup>5</sup>

Women and the families that depend upon them deserve fair pay. The Paycheck Fairness Act (S182) has already passed the House and has 40 co-sponsors in the Senate. It is time to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act!

For a listing of the over 80 state and national organizations that are members of Paycheck Fairness Action Coalition go to <http://www.nwlc.org/pdf/SignOnSenatePaycheckFairness2009.pdf>

*Questions on the poll? Contact Sharyn Tejani, National Partnership for Women and Families, 202.986.2600, [stejani@nationalpartnership.org](mailto:stejani@nationalpartnership.org).*

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<sup>1</sup> The poll was conducted from May 21-24, 2010 by Lake Research Partners. A nation-wide sample of 932 registered voters was asked the following question:

Congress is considering a new law that would provide women more tools to get fair pay in the workplace. The law will also make it harder for employers to justify paying different wages for the same work and ensure that businesses that break the law compensate women fairly.

Would you support or oppose such a law?

(IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE) Is that STRONGLY (support) (oppose) or NOT-SO-STRONGLY (support) (oppose)?

For full results and methodology, go to [www.nationalpartnership.org](http://www.nationalpartnership.org).

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2009 Annual Social and Economic Supplement, Table PINC-05: Work Experience in 2008 – People 15 Years Old and Over by Total Money Earnings in 2008, Age, Race, Hispanic Origin, and Sex, available at [http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/cpstables/032009/perinc/new05\\_000.htm](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/cpstables/032009/perinc/new05_000.htm) (last visited January 14, 2010).

<sup>3</sup> National Women’s Law Center, “Women’s Lower Wages Worsen their Circumstances in a Difficult Economy,” (April 2010) available at <http://www.nwlc.org/pdf/lowerwageshurtwomen.pdf> (last visited June 3, 2010).

<sup>4</sup> Heather Boushey, “Families Can’t Afford the Gender Wage Gap,” Center for American Progress (April 2010), available at [http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/04/pdf/equal\\_pay\\_day.pdf](http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/04/pdf/equal_pay_day.pdf) (last visited June 3, 2010).

<sup>5</sup> Heather Boushey, “The New Breadwinners,” in *The Shriver Report: A Women’s Nation Changes Everything*, available at [http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/10/womans\\_nation.html/#breadwinners](http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/10/womans_nation.html/#breadwinners) (last visited April 13, 2010).