



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

Oregon Commission for Women
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"
1819 SW 5th Ave., Portland, OR 97201
O 503.725.9980 / F 503.725.9984
Email: oaco.mail@state.or.us
Website: www.oregon.gov/Hispanic

For Immediate Release

Monday April 11, 2011

Contact: Oregon Advocacy Commissions/
Oregon Commission for Women, 503-725-9980

National Equal Pay Day sees slow gains in women's pay

Portland, OR – Sunny Petit, Acting Chair of the Oregon Commission on Women noted that as National Equal Pay Day is honored nationally on April 12, 2011, Oregon women now are breadwinners in 61.5% of all families. The April 12th date symbolizes how far into 2011 women must work to earn what men earned in 2010. As a report from the American Association of University Women shows, women in Oregon rank 14th among other states on the wage gap. Taking into account education and experience, Oregon women wage earners still earn 79% of their male counterparts' salaries for the same work. The Oregon Commission for Women supports efforts to increase wage equity in our state and around the nation.

According to the Center for American Progress, full-time, full-year working women still earn only 77 cents for every dollar that men earn. The difference is larger for African-American women, who earn an average of 61 cents and Latinas who earn 52 cents for every dollar a white non-Hispanic man earns.

Calculated over a lifetime, the wage gap accumulates to reduce retirement income of women and with it, reduced assets reserved for healthcare and other necessities. The Center calculates that the typical woman loses \$431,000 in pay over a 40-year career with the gap being higher or lower state to state. The career wage gap is at least \$300,000 in 12 states, \$400,000 in 23 states, \$500,000 in 10 states, and exceeds \$600,000 for women living in Wyoming and Alaska.

While education helps overall, it is not proof against unequal pay. The lifetime loss due to the salary gap for women with no High School diploma is about \$300,000 and is more than double that at \$723,000 for women with advanced degrees. According to the Center for American Progress, in the 42 states where data is available, the career wage gap for women with at least a bachelor's degree was more than \$500,000 in six states, more than \$600,000 in 17 states and the District of Columbia, at least \$700,000 in 13 states, and exceeds \$800,000 in two states. The highest career wage gap for college-educated women is for those who live in Virginia, who lose more than \$1 million over a 40-year career.

Sources:

Center for American Progress (www.americanprogress.org), "Families Can't Afford the Gender Wage Gap", By Heather Boushey, Jessica Arons, Lauren Smith, 2010.

AAUW, "Breaking Through Barriers," 2010, http://www.aauw.org/act/issue_advocacy/actionpages/payequity.cfm