

## Michaud Votes to Clear Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act for President Obama's Signature

Tuesday, January 27 2009

WASHINGTON, DC &ndash; Today, Congressman Mike Michaud voted to pass the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, when the House of Representatives again considered the legislation. Michaud is an original cosponsor of the bill and passage of it today follows its passage in the House earlier in the month and Senate passage last week. The legislation is now cleared for the President's signature.

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&ldquo;It is long past time that we end the discriminatory practice of paying a woman less than a man for performing the same job,&rdquo; said Michaud. &ldquo;This is not just a women's issue, but one that can affect the whole family. As American families struggle with the current economic crisis, it is more important than ever that working women get paid fairly and equally.&rdquo;

In 2007, on average, women in Maine working full-time, year-round earned 76 percent of what men working full-time, year-round earned &ndash; below the nationwide average of 78 percent (U.S. Census Bureau).

The Lilly Ledbetter Act is named for a woman who worked for nearly two decades at a Goodyear Tire and Rubber facility in Alabama. She sued the company when she learned that she was paid less than her male counterparts at the plant, despite having more experience. A jury found that her employer had unlawfully discriminated against her on the basis of sex. However, the Supreme Court said that Ledbetter had waited too long to sue for pay discrimination. The Lilly Ledbetter Act restores the law as it was prior to the Supreme Court's decision. The Court ruled that a pay discrimination claim must be filed within 180 days of the employer's initial decision to pay an employee less. This bill restores prior law &ndash; that each paycheck resulting from a discriminatory pay decision would constitute a new violation of employment nondiscrimination law.

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