

PETITION: Urge Washington State Lawmakers to Support Equal Pay

Dear Washington State Legislature,

Sincerely,

We, the undersigned, join with the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Washington State in urging you to pass legislation protecting workers who share salary information with their co-workers.

With a record number of women in the workforce and two-thirds of women functioning as primary or co-bread winners for their families, equal pay for women is critical to families' economic security. Yet in 2012, women in Washington state working full-time, year-round, were still paid 78 cents on average for every dollar paid to men.

Even worse than the wage gap existing is the reality that few women actually know if they are being paid unfairly, and some don't feel safe asking those questions at work for fear of retaliation from their employers.

If we are to help women ensure they are being paid fairly, we have to change this. We urge you to pass legislation protecting workers who share salary information with their co-workers from employer retaliation so we can finally enable Washington women to bring home the pay they have rightfully earned.