

State Assembly Champions Equal Pay Protections Providing Necessary Updates to New York Equal Pay Law

The New York State Assembly has once again championed the rights of all New York women today by passing a package of five bills that promote equal pay for equal or comparable work and close loopholes in current state law that allow employers to pay women less. The New York Women's Equality Coalition, comprised of over 850 businesses and organizations from across the state, applauds the Assembly for their continued leadership in the fight to advance women's rights across the state.

Included in this package is A.6075 which enacts critical updates to New York law by creating robust wage secrecy protections, so that employees cannot be fired or retaliated against for sharing their wage information as well as allow for increased damages up to triple the amount of unpaid wages when an employee successfully proves that an employer has willfully violated the law. This is necessary because women who experience wage discrimination stand to lose much more than just the simple difference in pay over time; related economic losses, such as benefits and increases pegged to salary, can add up – as well as other losses that may be harder to measure, such as the costs of opportunities forgone as unaffordable.

New York women work hard to support themselves and their families and the Women's Equality Coalition continues to support any legislation that advances their rights. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with our legislators during the 2015 Legislative Session to improve protections for women in the workplace and break down the barriers that perpetuate discrimination.

The Women's Equality Coalition is led by a Steering Committee with representatives from the American Association of University Women of New York State (AAUW-NYS), with 34 branches and 5,000 members statewide[LA1] ; the League of Women Voters with 60 local league chapters; Family Planning Advocates of New York which represents family planning providers statewide, including nine Planned Parenthood Affiliates, the New York Civil Liberties Union with its 8 regional offices and over 50,000 members; the New York State YWCA with 21 regional Ys; the PowHer New York Equal Pay campaign with more than 60 partner organizations across the state; the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence; NOW-NYS, with 24 chapters across the state representing over 40,000 women; Planned Parenthood Advocates of New York, the NYS Anti-Trafficking Network with 140 member organizations including Sanctuary for Families; the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers that represents 60,000 members throughout New York State; and A Better Balance, which provides legal services for hundreds of women across New York State.

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