



Advocacy Update

Sent November 10, 2010

Extend Emergency Unemployment Insurance

The federal emergency unemployment insurance program for long-term unemployed workers, extended in July, will expire on November 30th. Unless Congress takes action quickly, early in the upcoming lame duck session, benefits for over a million people will be cut off in December.

End The Gender Wage Gap!

Women in the United States earn seventy-seven cents for every dollar earned by men. The House of Representatives passed the Paycheck Fairness Act to strengthen federal protections from wage discrimination. The Senate is expected to take up the bill next week. Opportunities for the sisterhood and individual women to take action follow. Please do so now.

Sisterhood presidents:

Sign-on for your sisterhood to the Paycheck Fairness Act coalition's letter to U.S. senators. Your sisterhood's name is needed. To sign-on, e-mail Melanie Ross Levin indicating that you are signing on for your sisterhood (sisterhood name, city, and state). Include your name, address, telephone #, and sisterhood position.

Sisterhood members:

- The RAC's action alert on the Paycheck Fairness Act provides background information and the opportunity for individuals to send supportive e-mails directly to your senators.
- Please flag Tuesday, November 16, as an important day for support of the bill. That day, the coalition is hosting a call-in day to urge senators to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. Please dial 1-877-667-6650 and simple instructions will direct you to your Senators' offices. After you are put through, be sure to tell them the following:
 - Your name, address, and that you are their constituent.
 - You are calling to urge them to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act.
 - The Paycheck Fairness Act would deter wage discrimination by closing loopholes in the Equal Pay Act and bar retaliation against workers who disclose their wages to coworkers.
 - The House already passed the bill. The Senate must do the same this session and oppose any weakening amendments.

Support Reproductive Rights for Military Women and Dependents

The ACLU is working on a campaign to urge Congress to lift the statutory ban that prevents service women and military dependents from using private funds to access abortion services at U.S. military facilities. The attached fact sheet contains full information about the issue. Also attached is a letter to the chairs and ranking members of the Senate and House Armed Services Committees. The ACLU is looking for military doctors and officers (active or retired) who would be interested in signing the letter.

For more information on WRJ and Social Justice, visit www.wrj.org/social-justice-home