

(2) a staff composed of such clerical, investigatory, legal, technical, and other personnel as the Select Committee, or the Chair and the Vice Chair of the Select Committee considers necessary or appropriate.

(2) **APPOINTMENT OF STAFF.**—The staff of the Select Committee shall consist of such personnel as the Chair and the Vice Chair shall jointly appoint. Such staff may be removed jointly by the Chair and the Vice Chair, and shall work under the joint general supervision and direction of the Chair and the Vice Chair.

(b) **COMPENSATION.**—The Chair and the Vice Chair of the Select Committee shall jointly fix the compensation of all personnel of the staff of the Select Committee.

(c) **REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES.**—The Select Committee may reimburse the members of its staff for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred by such staff members in the performance of their functions for the Select Committee.

(d) **SERVICES OF SENATE STAFF.**—The Select Committee may use, with the prior consent of the chair of any other committee of the Senate or the chair of any subcommittee of any committee of the Senate, the facilities of any other committee of the Senate, or the services of any members of the staff of such committee or subcommittee, whenever the Select Committee or the Chair of the Select Committee considers that such action is necessary or appropriate to enable the Select Committee to carry out its responsibilities, duties, or functions under this title.

(e) **DETAIL OF EMPLOYEES.**—The Select Committee may use on a reimbursable basis, with the prior consent of the head of the department or agency of Government concerned and the approval of the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, the services of personnel of such department or agency.

(f) **TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.**—The Select Committee may procure the temporary or intermittent services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof.

(g) **PAYMENT OF EXPENSES.**—There shall be paid out of the applicable accounts of the Senate such sums as may be necessary for the expenses of the Select Committee. Such payments shall be made on vouchers signed by the Chair of the Select Committee and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate. Amounts made available under this subsection shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.

(h) **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.**—The Select Committee shall issue rules to prohibit or minimize any conflicts of interest involving its members, staff, detailed personnel, consultants, and any others providing assistance to the Select Committee. Such rules shall not be inconsistent with the Code of Official Conduct of the Senate or applicable Federal law.

#### **SEC. 209. EFFECTIVE DATE; TERMINATION.**

(a) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This title shall take effect on the date of enactment of this title.

(b) **TERMINATION.**—The Select Committee shall terminate three months after the submission of the report required by section 207(c).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

Mr. BURRIS. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BURRIS. I thank the Chair.

#### **EQUAL PAY DAY**

Mr. BURRIS. Mr. President, many of my colleagues and countless Americans across the country recognize today as Equal Pay Day, a solemn reminder of the enduring wage gap that separates women from men. We mark this inequity on a day in late April because it has taken many women from January 2008 until now to earn what their male counterparts brought home in 2008 alone. This is simply not acceptable. At a time of widespread economic uncertainty, the disparity is more troubling than ever. We can and must do better.

In 1963, this body passed the Equal Pay Act which was signed into law and represented a triumph for America's workforce. That legislation laid the groundwork for significant progress. It established a set of principles that declared the United States of America as a nation that does not discriminate based on gender. It was an important first step. Nearly 50 years have passed since that day.

It is clear that we have more work to do.

The Paycheck Fairness Act, which I am proud to cosponsor, would update the original Equal Pay Act and bring the law in line with our Nation's other important civil rights laws. The Bureau of Labor Statistics tells us that in 2007, women with full-time employment earned roughly 78 cents for every dollar men earned. This represents modest progress compared to 2006, when the ratio stood at slightly less than 77 cents on the dollar. Sadly, women of color earn significantly less, even when they have the same qualifications as men they work alongside. Over the course of a 40-year career, women can lose as much as \$1 million to the gender wage gap. Nationwide that means roughly \$200 billion of lost income every single year. With families across America tightening their belts and working harder than ever to make ends meet, it would be a serious failure on the part of this Congress to ignore this call to action.

With this in mind, we must move swiftly to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. This comprehensive bill would encourage employers to follow the law by creating substantial incentives and strengthening penalties for equal pay violations, aligning it more closely with civil rights legislation. It would close loopholes. It would prohibit employer retaliation, improve Federal outreach, and strengthen enforcement efforts. The bill would also draw on a measure already enacted in the great State of Illinois to fix the established requirement clarifying reasonable points of comparison between employees to determine their fair wages. All of this, together with increased training, education, and research, means the Paycheck Fairness Act would invigorate the landmark equal pay legislation of the 1960s and provide much needed updates for the 21st century.

In all of my years of public life, I have had the privilege of witnessing

firsthand the progress our Nation has made over the past half century. The stubborn barriers of race and gender known to my parents' generation have been shattered. Even in my own lifetime, I have seen changes few could have imagined. But for all the progress we have made, there is still a very long way to go. It is this slow, steady march toward our highest aspirations—the active progress of perfecting our Union—that defines the shared destiny of all Americans: Black and White, male and female, from all walks of life, and every corner of the globe.

The Paycheck Fairness Act represents a concrete step in closing the gender wage gap and another powerful stride in the march to equality. It is a measure that stands for common sense, good governance, and equal opportunity. I am proud to cosponsor the Paycheck Fairness Act, and I urge my colleagues to join with me in supporting women in the workforce.

It is my hope we will soon commemorate Equal Pay Day not as a grim reminder of the gender pay gap but as a day we took decisive action to stop discrimination in its tracks. I ask my colleagues to join me in this effort and to adopt the Paycheck Fairness Act without delay.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes without objection.

#### **WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY**

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, today is Workers Memorial Day, which has been established for many years in this country, a day when we honor injured workers. It is a day that is particularly important for the families of some 5,000 Americans every year who are killed on the job. It is hard to believe that in our country that is about 100 workers a week. Some 15 workers every single day in our country are killed in a workplace accident, some of them union, most of them nonunion workers, workers who say goodbye to their spouse or to their children or to their mother or father and go off to work expecting just another day at the job and they never come home.

Workers are killed in all kinds of construction accidents. That number of 5,000—some 5,500, actually, in the year 2007—does not even count people who die from workplace acquired diseases, workers who might be sickened by Diacetyl, the popcorn lung disease that workers in Ohio have contracted.

Today, under the chairmanship of Senator MURRAY, the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee held a hearing to commemorate Workers Memorial Day: Dr. Celeste Monforton, Jim Frederick, and Tammy Miser. Tammy Miser's brother was