job is just not fair; and as Members of Congress, we should do something to fix it. That's why I'm a cosponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act. This bill would make it harder for employers to engage in discrimination against women in the form of unequal pay.

I urge my colleagues to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act so women in Delaware who do the same jobs for the same hours get the same paycheck as their male counterparts.

EQUAL PAY DAY

(Mr. LOWENTHAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, today is Equal Pay Day, a day to remind all Americans and all my colleagues here in Congress that discrimination and paycheck inequality still exists in the general workplace.

Nationally, women earn only 77 cents for every dollar a man earns. That income disparity must end now. And while women in my home State of California are paid 85 cents for every dollar paid to men, we must do more. To live in a country where women do not earn equal pay for equal work is sad and embarrassing.

What does equality look like, Mr. Speaker? Equality looks like the Civil Rights Act of 1964; equality looks like the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and equality needs to look like the Paycheck Fairness Act, which has yet to be passed.

I urge the Speaker to bring this much needed bill to the House floor as soon as possible.

To my constituents, please join me on Facebook tomorrow for a town hall meeting where I will be answering your questions about equality and what steps we should be taking to achieve equality for all. Please visit Facebook.com/RepLowenthal to join the conversation.

EQUAL PAY DAY

(Ms. LEE of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, today we rise in support of Equal Pay Day.

Equal Pay Day symbolizes when more than 3 months into the year women's wages finally catch up with what men were paid in the previous year.

It's unconscionable that women today continue to be blatantly discriminated against in the workforce in terms of their pay and the treatment that they receive.

In 2011, women working full time made only 77 cents to every dollar made by men over the course of a year. The landscape is even worse for women of color. In 2011, African American women earned 64 cents to every dollar earned by white males, and for Latinas it was only 55 cents and 42 cents in my home State of California. On average, the wage gap costs women roughly $11,000 annually, and at this rate the wage gap will not close until 2057. Can you imagine that, 2057?

We must support Congresswoman DELAURO's Paycheck Fairness Act. This addresses the serious economic disparities which women still face.

Women and their families cannot afford to continue paying the cost of our inaction in the face of injustice. I hope the Speaker will bring this bill to the floor right away.

EQUAL PAY DAY

(Mr. CASTRO of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Today on April 9, we recognize Equal Pay Day, symbolizing the more than 3 months into this year that women have to work in order for their wages to finally catch up to what their male colleagues earned last year.

Nearly 50 years ago, President John F. Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act to protect workers from gender-based discrimination.

Despite the hard work of countless folks to make pay equality a reality, women today still earn only 77 cents for every dollar earned by men doing the same kind of work. For women of color, the wage gap is even larger.

Clearly, as a Nation, we have more work to do. That's why I'm a proud cosponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would reenforce the Equal Pay Act by closing loopholes and protecting employees from unfair retaliation.

Twice now Democrats have passed this legislation in the House of Representatives only to have it blocked by Senate Republicans.

Equal pay is not a partisan issue. And it's not only a women's issue. This is about America's founding principles of justice for all.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you to bring this important legislation before the House for a full vote.

EQUAL PAY DAY

(Mr. BERA of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BERA of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate Equal Pay Day as we mark the 50th anniversary of the Equal Pay Act.

In the last 50 years, women have gone into space and off to war. They've led Fortune 500 companies and served on the Supreme Court. They've been elected Speaker of the House and run for President; yet women still earn only 77 cents for every dollar a man earns.

In the Sacramento area, women lose approximately $2.2 billion each year because of this pay gap. Now, that's unacceptable and as a father it's personal. I want my daughter to grow up in a country where her gender is not a barrier to her success.

And the wage gap doesn't just hurt women; it hurts families, businesses, and communities. Women are now nearly half of our workforce, and oftentimes it's up to women to put food on the table and provide for their families. That's why I'm a proud cosponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act, one of the very first bills I chose to cosponsor.

It's time for us to finish what President Kennedy started 50 years ago and what women have been working to achieve for more than a century and make equal pay a reality for millions of Americans.

EQUAL PAY DAY

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tuesday, April 9, as Equal Pay Day for women.

The Equal Pay Act, signed into law by President Kennedy in 1963, amended the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to prohibit sex-based wage discrimination between men and women who perform jobs that require substantially equal skill, effort, and responsibility.

In 1963, women were earning an average of 59 cents on the dollar compared to men. I rise because today on average women earn 77 cents for every dollar a man earns.

In 2013, a study by the United States Census Bureau in Columbus, Ohio, demonstrated that women are paid 81 cents for every dollar paid to men. This amounts to a yearly gap of some $9,261 between men and women who work full time.

Equal work? It's simple. It deserves equal pay.

I'm proud that the first piece of legislation that President Obama signed into law during his first term was the Lilly Ledbetter Act. I rise for all the Lilly Ledbetters in hopes that one day the wage of workers in this country will be equal regardless of gender.

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GUN LEGISLATION: A PATHWAY TO SAVING LIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, thank you so very much for the opportunity to discuss with my colleagues a