

that cost is commensurate with what they accomplish. H.R. 363 alone would cost \$1.25 billion over 5 years and H.R. 362 represents an expenditure of \$1.5 billion over 5 years.

Oddly, these duplicative bills seek to establish programs that are already in existence and expand others that have yet to show a return on their original investment. As outlined by the Statement of Administrative Policy, "the Academic Competitiveness Council has identified 105 existing STEM education programs spending over \$3 billion annually, including 45 programs that support training of STEM teachers, and found that very few of these programs demonstrated evidence-based effectiveness."

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle would like to pour more money into programs that are simply not working. I have continued to support successful legislation like loan forgiveness for science and math teachers to encourage development in this field. I also encourage individual states to look into programs like that in New Jersey's Core Curriculum Content standards, which I was proud to work on in the New Jersey Assembly. Under this program, students are taught the highest level of math and science while also providing development of pre-engineering and design and equipping students with modern computer literacy.

Out of a sense of responsibility to our Nation's next generation, I could not in good conscience support these expensive, bureaucracy-laden bills. I will continue to support measures that are proven to work while upholding states' Constitutional right to design STEM programs which work well for them and their students.

NINETY-SECOND COMMEMORATION  
OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 23, 2007*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to remind the world that the 24th of April marks the 92nd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, a systematic and deliberate campaign of the Ottoman Empire to exterminate an entire people. I also rise to reaffirm my support for the adoption of the Armenian Genocide Resolution, H. Res. 106. This legislation contains a long list of U.S. and international involvement against the Armenian Genocide of 1915.

Raphael Lemkin, who coined the term 'genocide' in 1944, and who was the earliest proponent of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide, invoked the Armenian case as a definitive example of genocide in the 20th century. The time is now for the Administration to describe what occurred as a genocide. There is no option for continued denial.

Atrocities which fell upon a nation almost a century ago are still crying out for commemoration. Armenia's people did not get sufficient recognition of their devastation and our government has yet to take an appropriate position in this matter. Considering how well documented the Armenian genocide is in U.S. archives and through an overwhelming body of

firsthand, governmental, and diplomatic evidence, this is nothing less than a disgrace.

Previous Congresses undertook many efforts to pass legislation recognizing the Armenian Genocide. Unfortunately, all those attempts failed. Now, however, the movement to recognize the genocide has generated enough momentum that passage of this resolution is finally possible. Congressman PALLONE, Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, has been a stalwart champion of this legislation.

The grassroots campaign "End the Cycle of Genocide" focuses on the lessons we can learn from this tragic chapter in history. We understand the horror of past genocides and recognize that mass exterminations underway today need to be stopped. We cannot remain silent as we observe from a distance how perpetrators execute their power over minorities. Now more than ever, as the world is gripped by unrest and terrorism, the memory of the Armenian Genocide underscores our responsibility to help convey our cherished traditions of respect for fundamental human rights and opposition to mass slaughter.

For these reasons, I support H. Res. 106 and call upon the President to ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects an appropriate level of understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to the Armenian Genocide.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIR  
PAY ACT OF 2007

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2007*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, the 1963 Equal Pay Act (EPA), the first of the great civil rights statutes of the 1960s, was highly successful for close to 20 years, but it is too creaky with age to be useful today. It is long past the time to amend the EPA to meet the changed economy, where women work almost as much as men. Every year, my House colleague ROSA DELAURO and I, and scores of other Members, introduce the Paycheck Fairness Act, a bill to amend the EPA to make its basic procedures equal to those used in other antidiscrimination statutes. However, the Fair Pay Act (FPA), which Senator TOM HARKIN and I have also introduced, not only amends the EPA, but it picks up where the EPA leaves off to bring the EPA into the 21st century by taking on sex segregated jobs where gender influenced wages leaves average women workers without any remedy too long. Congresswoman DELAURO and I have long pressed for the passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act and both of us will testify at its first hearing today before the Committee on Education and Labor about what is at bottom a procedural update that should have occurred 25 years ago. I will be testifying from my own experience as the first woman chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), when President Jimmy Carter moved the EPA and other civil rights statutes to the EEOC as parts of a historic organization when I became chair.

Along with my indispensable Senate partner, TOM HARKIN, I again introduce the Fair Pay Act to reach the average woman worker,

who is often first steered to and then locked into jobs with wages that are deeply influenced by the gender of those who have traditionally held those jobs. Women are greatly underused today because of employer steering, and because of deeply rooted wage stereotypes that result in pay according to gender and not according to the skills, efforts, responsibilities and working conditions necessary to do the job. I introduce the Fair Pay Act because the pay problems of most women today stem mainly from this sex segregation between the jobs that women and men traditionally do. Two-thirds of white women, and three quarters of African American women, work in just three areas: sales and clerical, service, and factory jobs. Only a combination of more aggressive strategies can break through the ancient societal habits present throughout human time the world over, as well as the employer steering of women into women's jobs that is as old as paid employment itself.

The FPA recognizes that if men and women are doing comparable work, they should be paid a comparable wage. If a woman is an emergency services operator, a female-dominated profession, for example, she should be paid no less than a fire dispatcher, a male-dominated profession, simply because each of these jobs has been dominated by one sex. If a woman is a social worker, a traditionally female occupation, she should earn no less than a probation officer, a traditionally male job, simply because of the gender associated with each of these jobs.

The FPA, like the EPA, will not tamper with the market system. As with the EPA, the burden will be on the plaintiff to prove discrimination. She must show that the reason for the disparity is sex discrimination, not legitimate market factors. Corrections to achieve comparable pay for men and women are not radical or unprecedented. State employees in almost half the State governments, in red and blue States alike, have already demonstrated that you can eliminate the part of the pay gap that is due to discrimination. Twenty States have adjusted wages for women State employees, raising pay for teachers, nurses, clerical workers, librarians, and other female-dominated jobs that paid less than men with comparable jobs. Minnesota, for example, implemented a pay equity plan when they found that similarly skilled female jobs paid 20 percent less than male jobs. There often will be some portion of the gap that is traceable to market conditions, but 20 States have shown that you can tackle the discrimination gap without interfering with the free market system. The States generally have closed the discrimination gap over a period of 4 or 5 years at a one-time cost no more than 3 to 4 percent of payroll.

In addition, routinely, many women workers achieve pay equity through collective bargaining, and countless employers on their own, as they see women shifting out of vital female-dominated occupations, the resulting effects of the shortage of workers, and the unfairness to women, and are raising women's wages with pay equity adjustments. Unequal pay has been built into the way women have been treated since Adam and Eve. To dislodge such deep seated and pervasive treatment, we must go to the source, the female occupations where pay now identifies with gender and always has.

Recently, I thought we were seeing progress when the census reported last year that Black, college-educated women actually earned more than white, college-educated women, although the overall wage gap for Black women, at 65 percent, remains considerably larger than the gap for white women. No explanation was offered for the progress for Black women, but other data and information suggest that even when women seem to catch up it may not be what we had in mind. I suspect that African American women are represented disproportionately among the 50 percent of all multiple job holders who are women. I am certain that this progress for African American women also tells a tragic story. The decline in marriageable Black men, eaten alive by ghetto life, also means that many college-educated Black women are likely to be single with no need for even the short time-out for children that many white women often take that may affect their wages as compared with Black women.

The best case for a strong and updated EPA with at least the Paycheck Fairness Act occurred here in the Congress in 2003, when women custodians in the House and Senate won an EPA case after showing that women workers were paid a dollar less for doing the same and similar work as men. Had they not been represented by their union, they would have had an almost impossible task using the rules for bringing and sustaining an EPA class action suit. The FPA simply modernizes the EPA to bring it in line with later passed civil rights statutes. From my tenure as EEOC chair, I know all too well the several ways that this historic legislation needs a 21st century make-over.

We cosponsored both these two bills every year to say let's at least start with the Paycheck Fairness Act so we can be prepared to go further with the Fair Pay Act. Start where you like, but Congress should be ashamed to let another year go by while working families lose more than \$200 billion annually—more than \$4,000 per family—because even considering education, age, hours works and location, women are paid less than they are worth. Let's start this year to make pay worthy of the American women we have asked to go to work.

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#### HAMAS BREAKS TRUCE

### HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2007*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, early this morning, the day that marks the 59th year of Israeli independence, Hamas militants broke their truce by launching dozens of rockets and mortars into Israel. While no one was hurt and there was no reported damage, this is yet another setback for Middle East peace and for the kidnapped Gilad Shalit and his family who have patiently awaited his return.

Hamas remains an organization full of contradictions. While their militant wing says the cease fire is over, the political wing insists that the cease fire is to be resumed. Hamas claims that Shalit is a prisoner of war and yet they bar the Red Cross from visiting him and have offered only scant proof the he even remains alive.

There cannot be lasting peace in the Holy Land until the Palestinian people insist that all armed parties come under the control of a freely elected government. Palestinian terrorist groups operate under their own authority, planning and carrying out their attacks based on their warped view of Israeli grievances. This is just as destructive for peace-loving Palestinians as for peace-loving Israelis.

Hamas continues to call for the destruction of Israel in its official policy statements. How can Israel hope to negotiate a lasting peace if the stated goal of the other sitting government is the very annihilation of their state? There can be peace, but only if Hamas shows in word and deed that coexistence is its goal.

Until that time, the international community should support Israel, a state that abides by international treaties and is actively seeking a long-term solution to violence. As long as Hamas continues to promulgate random attacks on civilians and violate international prisoner of war standards, it cannot be trusted to sit down with the Israelis in good faith negotiations for peace.

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#### RECOGNIZING EQUAL PAY DAY

### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2007*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in observation of Equal Pay Day, a day where we recognize that women and people of color continue to suffer the consequences of inequitable pay. This day symbolizes the time in the year which wages, especially paid to American women, catch up to the wages paid to men from the previous year.

Ever since the Equal Pay Act was signed into law in 1963, the wage gap between men and women has only been closing at a slow rate. Back then, women who worked full-time year-round made 59 cents on average for every dollar earned by men. Even today, women only earn 77 cents to the dollar, which means that the gap has narrowed by less than half a cent per year. In 2006, there were 70.2 million women aged 16 and over in the workforce, which made up 46 percent of all workers, and reflected a significant increase from only 18.4 million working women in 1950. Over a working lifetime, this wage disparity costs the average American woman and her family \$700,000 to \$2 million in lost wages, and thus impacting social Security benefits and pensions.

With the growing rate of women in the workforce, and more families reliant upon their paychecks for livelihood, the issue of equal pay is not simply a women's issue, but a family issue. The wage gap hurts everyone because it decreases a family's income that pays for their essential needs. When women earn more, the entire family benefits.

For these reasons Madam Speaker, I am in strong support of the Paycheck Fairness Act. I hope that this Congress will bring new light to this bill do what has not been done over the past 40 years. It will be through our bipartisan efforts that we eradicate the unfair treatment of women in the labor market, and help families gain the resources they need to ensure that their children have access to a better future in the 21st century.

MR. LAMBORN CONDEMNNS TRAGIC ANNIVERSARY

### HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2007*

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize but not celebrate the 40th anniversary of the legalization of abortion in the State of Colorado. On April 25, 1967, the Colorado State Legislature passed its first law legalizing abortion. Since the passage of this law, hundreds of thousands of Coloradans have lost their lives as a direct result. Today the death toll continues to mount in Colorado as well as the rest of the country, and with it the tremendous cost to our society.

What would have become of the 50 million Americans whose lives were so untimely taken from them? What discoveries will we never see? What diseases will never be cured because we allowed these lives to be taken? The loss to society, resulting from the perverse logic that the life of an "unplanned" child does not possess the same value as that of any other child, is staggering.

The most common medical procedure performed in the United States, abortion is also a deplorable attack on the health of American women. Abortion, though it was legalized in the name of women's health, causes immediate medical complications for over 140,000 women a year, increases the risk of premature birth in subsequent pregnancies, and results in a higher chance of infertility. Furthermore, post-abortion syndrome, which is similar to post-traumatic stress disorder, has led to untold amounts of suffering among American women. Compared to women that give birth, women who abort their unborn children are almost three times more likely to require psychological care.

I believe that our grandchildren and great-grandchildren will one day look upon abortion as we now look upon slavery, as an evil so great it tore apart the moral fabric of our Nation. While fighting slavery, the inhumane scourge of his own era, Frederick Douglass said, "one and God makes a majority." Those who fight in the name of life are therefore the majority, and will ultimately prevail. I hope and pray that I will never again have to observe this dark anniversary, and promise that I will continue to do everything in my power to protect innocent lives and the well-being of women.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2007*

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, due to a funeral, I was unable to return in time to vote on Monday, April 23, 2007. Please find below a listing of my missed votes and a record of my votes, had I been present.

Rollcall #245 on H. Res. 179, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall #246 on H.R. 1434, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."