



OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN RON KLEIN
FLORIDA'S 22ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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CONTACT: Melissa Silverman, 202-225-3026, C: 202-821-8152

Rep. Klein Cheers Passage of Equal Pay Bill

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Ron Klein (FL-22) today voted with a bipartisan majority of his colleagues to pass important legislation which will help end the discriminatory practice of paying men and women unequally for performing the same job.

Klein is a co-sponsor of the legislation, the Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R. 1338), which makes modest, common-sense changes to strengthen the Equal Pay Act (EPA) so that it will be a more effective tool in combating gender-based pay discrimination. H.R. 1338 will close numerous loopholes in the 45-year old law that has enabled employers to evade their responsibility to provide equal compensation to men and women.

“Equal pay for equal work – it doesn’t get any simpler than that,” Klein said. “Women make up a critical part of our nation’s workforce, but they still earn only 77 cents for every dollar that men make for doing the exact same job. Today’s legislation is a real step toward closing the wage gap, and I was proud to support this bill as a matter of fundamental fairness and equality.”

Closing the wage gap will have a positive, long-term impact on women’s economic security, and is especially important in these difficult economic times. Unequal pay impacts the ability of single mothers and female heads of household to care for their families, and disproportionately impacts women of color, as African American women make only 68 percent of men’s earnings and Hispanic women make only 56 percent of men’s earnings. The Institute of Women’s Policy Research found that this wage disparity will cost women anywhere from \$400,000 to \$2 million over a lifetime in lost wages.

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