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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The future of our nation's productivity and  
3 competitiveness in the global marketplace depends on the  
4 success of all men and women; and

5           WHEREAS, Women have been discriminated against in  
6 education, the workplace, and society as a whole; and

7           WHEREAS, Women continue to earn no more than 77 cents on  
8 the dollar compared to men; and

9           WHEREAS, The pay gap has been shown to start as soon as one  
10 year after college; this inequality affects not only women, but  
11 their families and society as a whole; and

12           WHEREAS, The pay gap between women and men has long-term  
13 effects on women's economic security; such a gap affects  
14 women's Social Security earnings, their ability to save for  
15 retirement, and their children's education; and

16           WHEREAS, Pay equity is closely linked to the eradication of  
17 poverty and is essential to having a highly-motivated  
18 workforce; and

19           WHEREAS, Equal Pay Day was originated by the National

1 Committee on Pay Equity in 1996 as a public awareness event to  
2 illustrate the gap between men's and women's wages; the day,  
3 observed in April, symbolizes how far into the year a woman  
4 must work, on average, to earn as much as a man earned the  
5 previous year, with Tuesday being the day in which women's  
6 wages catch up to men's wages from the previous week; because  
7 women earn less on average than men, they must work longer for  
8 the same amount of pay; this wage gap is even greater for most  
9 women of color; and

10 WHEREAS, Equal pay is a priority for all women and for our  
11 society at large; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
13 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
14 we designate April 12, 2011 as Pay Equity Day in the State of  
15 Illinois in order to raise awareness about this endemic  
16 inequity.