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## June 10, 2008 - Rep. Slaughter Marks 45th Anniversary of the Equal Pay Act With Call for More Action

FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE

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Rep. Slaughter Marks 45th Anniversary Of The Equal Pay Act With Call For More Action

Affirms  
Support for the Paycheck Fairness Act

Washington, DC &ndash; Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Chairwoman of the House Committee on Rules, today observed the 45th anniversary of the Equal Pay Act and confirmed her commitment to work to close the wage gap.

Forty-five years ago today President John Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act and called it the first step in addressing &ldquo;the unconscionable practice of paying female employees less wages than male employees for the same job.&rdquo; At that time women earned 59 cents for each dollar earned by a man.

Over the last four and a half decades, the wage gap between men and women has narrowed, but working women still earn only 77 cents for every dollar earned by men.

&ldquo;The wage gap is one of the most pressing issues

facing women workers, their families, and the economy," said Rep. Slaughter. "Unfair pay affects women in all lines of work regardless of education, race, or age."

Rep. Slaughter is a cosponsor of H.R. 1338, the Paycheck Fairness Act, critical legislation that builds on the progress of the Equal Pay Act and helps to end the persistent gap in the earnings of men and women.

"Although there has been progress on closing the wage gap between men and women, it has been too slow," Slaughter continued. "Between 1963 and now, the wage gap has narrowed by less than half a cent a year. At this rate, it would take about another 50 years before men and women reach parity in pay in this country."

"This is not a women's issue — it's a family issue," Slaughter concluded. "Women are often providing a significant share of their family's income, and in many cases they are the sole wage-earner. I join with many other Members of Congress in strong support of the Paycheck Fairness Act which I hope will be acted upon by the House of Representatives soon. Working women and their families deserve equal pay for equal work."

## BACKGROUND

The Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R. 1338) takes affirmative steps to eliminate gender-based wage discrimination and ensure that women earn what men earn for doing the same job. The legislation adheres to the current work standards under the Equal Pay Act but would reform the procedures for enforcing the law.

Specifically, the bill strengthens the Equal Pay Act by providing more effective remedies to women who are not being paid equal wages for doing equal work. The bill also prohibits employers from retaliating against employees who share salary information with their co-workers.

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