



Sample Equal Pay Day Letter to the Editor 2011

Writing an Effective Letter to the Editor

Each paper has specific rules, so remember to check before you submit. In general, follow these basic guidelines.

- **Make it relevant.** Connect to a recent article, op-ed, or editorial.
- **Keep it short.** There is a rough limit of 250 words for letters.

Dear Editor:

According to latest US Census statistics on average, full-time working women earned 77 cents to every dollar earned by men. It's hard to believe that in 2011 when women make up half of the workforce they earn 23% less than their male counterparts.

Over a lifetime this loss of earnings adds up. On average, women lose out on \$9,575 per year and \$434,000 in a lifetime due to the wage gap. In a bad economy I am extremely concerned about pay inequity not only for myself, but for my family.

To recognize this persistent gap, on Tuesday, April 12 [*Name BPW Local Organization*] will celebrate Equal Pay Day – the point in the year when a woman's wages catch up to a man's wages in the previous year. As working women we know that eliminating the wage gap is good for families and business, which is why Equal Pay Day is recognized every year.

An important way to address pay inequity is through federal legislation. The Paycheck Fairness Act will strengthen the Equal Pay Act by closing loopholes and strengthening penalties to guarantee that women workers are not shortchanged solely because of their gender. Unfortunately the 111th Congress was not able to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act, however it came very close. We must see this bill passed in the current Congress.

Here in [*name of your City/County*] we will join hundreds of working women advocates across the country to educate women and men about pay inequity and demand passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Sincerely,

Name
BPW Local
Address
Phone Number

[NOTE: This is a sample letter. Please edit and use your personal stories.]



Business and
Professional
Women's
Foundation

1718 M Street, NW #148
Washington, DC 20036

ph: 202/293-1100
fx: 202/861-0298
www.bpwfoundation.org