

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 215

BY REPRESENTATIVE COX

A RESOLUTION

To commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Equal Pay Act of 1963.

WHEREAS, the Equal Pay Act of 1963, enacted by the 88th United States Congress, amended the Fair Labor Standards Act to abolish wage disparities based on sex; and

WHEREAS, on June 10, 1963, President John F. Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act, which requires employers to give women and men equal pay for equal work; and

WHEREAS, this landmark federal antidiscrimination law was one of the very first to address sex-based pay disparities; and

WHEREAS, in 1963, women were paid fifty-nine cents for every dollar men were paid; and

WHEREAS, according to the economic statistics released in 2012 by the United States Census Bureau, full-time working women in 2011 earned only seventy-seven percent of the earnings of their male counterparts; and

WHEREAS, sex discrimination in the workplace was found to depress wages and living standards for female employees, cause labor disputes, create unfair methods of competition in the workplace, and burden commerce and the free flow of goods; and

WHEREAS, although significant strides have been made since 1963, the fight for true economic equality continues; and

WHEREAS, the Equal Pay Act of 1963 was the first step toward an adjustment of balance in pay for women and for the past fifty years it has served as a wage equalizer between men and women for equal paying jobs; and

WHEREAS, the 2013 American Association of University Women National Convention, to be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, will focus on the fiftieth anniversary of the Equal Pay Act and will feature Lilly Ledbetter, "the face of pay equity", who earned

national attention when her Fair Pay Act of 2009 became the first bill President Barack Obama signed as president, and famed journalist and award-winning author Melissa Harris-Perry as keynote speaker.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Equal Pay Act of 1963 by President John F. Kennedy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the secretary of the United States Senate, the clerk of the United States House of Representatives, each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress, and the American Association of University Women (AAUW).

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES