

COLORADO STATE SENATE

MAJORITY OFFICE



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Sen. Zenzinger and Sen. Kerr stand with women, advocate for equal pay for equal work



Sen. Rachel Zenzinger and Sen. Andy Kerr present the resolution on Tuesday.



DENVER -- Sen. Rachel Zenzinger, D-Arvada and Sen. Andy Kerr, D-Lakewood, moved a resolution on Tuesday -- national Equal Pay Day -- advocating for equal pay for equal work. Today, the Senate approved the resolution.

Wage disparity occurs between men and women and between the various races and ethnicities. The median annual earnings for Colorado women is \$40,000, while it is \$50,000 for men.

Below is specific data from the Institute of Women Public Policy research.



| | U.S. Women | U.S. Men | Colo. Women | Colo. Men |
|-----------------|------------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| White | \$40,000 | \$51,000 | \$42,294 | \$55,000 |
| Black | \$33,000 | \$38,000 | \$37,136 | \$41,263 |
| Latino/a | \$28,000 | \$30,000 | \$28,884 | \$34,351 |
| Asian | \$44,500 | \$56,000 | \$35,000 | \$51,578 |
| Native American | \$31,200 | \$36,000 | \$30,947 | \$39,096 |
| Average | \$37,000 | \$47,100 | \$40,000 | \$50,014 |

“The issue of pay discrimination is still prevalent in our society, and all of our help is needed to combat this injustice. More and more wives, mothers, and grandmothers are taking on the role of primary breadwinner. But these women aren’t receiving the pay they deserve. Today, in the 21st Century, women earn less than men in every state of the country. That’s not right, but we can change that in Colorado,” said Sen. Kerr.

Sen. Zenzinger said the wage gap threatens the fabric of our communities.

“The wage gap in Colorado and across our country is hurting our future. Pay discrimination is a real and persistent problem that continues to shortchange American women and their families,” she said. “Even when all variables, like education and experience, are factored in, the pay gap still exists. I don’t want that kind of future for my daughters or any other woman or girl; we need equal pay for equal work.”

Women represent nearly two-thirds of workers who are paid minimum wage or less, and are most likely to live in poverty and rely on public assistance.

The resolution (SJR 14-026) passed today on a 22 to 4 vote with all Democratic Senators backing it.

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About Sen. Rachel Zenzinger: Sen. Rachel Zenzinger serves Colorado Senate District 19, which spans most of Arvada and the Jefferson County portion of Westminster. She was appointed to her seat and sworn into office on Dec. 13, 2013. She serves on the Senate Education Committee, Senate Local Government Committee and she is a Senate advisor to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education. Her professional background is in education, and she was coordinator of the Regis University Master of Arts in Education program. For more information about Sen. Zenzinger, please go to www.RachelForColorado.com or call her at 303-866-4840.