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NEWS RELEASE

**RI DEMOCRATIC PARTY JOINS IN NATIONAL RECOGNITION OF “EQUAL PAY DAY”
Annual Date marks how far into 2015 a woman must work to catch up with a man’s 2014 wages**

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – The Rhode Island Democratic Party joined the nation’s Democratic leaders today in marking the annual “Equal Pay Day,” to call attention to the disparity in what women and men earn for equal work. It is a national conversation that, according to Time magazine (4/14/15) dates back to the Civil War.

In 2009, President Barack Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act to address the unfair wage gap, and restore protection against pay discrimination. The national commemoration of “Equal Pay Day” reminds us of the pay gap that exists between male and female American workers, and the urgency of compensating all workers equally.

“The Democratic Party has long stood for justice for working men and women, and is particularly concerned about equal wages for equal work,” said Rhode Island Party chairman and state Representative Joseph M. McNamara. “Today is a vivid reminder of just how much longer women must work to catch up with their male counterparts.”

The Institute for Women’s Policy Research reports that “women earn 78.3 cents for every dollar a man earns ... and at the current rate women will not receive equal pay until 2058.” www.statusofwomendata.org. That difference is even greater for Hispanic and African American women. With nearly half of the nation’s workforce made up of women, and 4 in 10 primary breadwinners for households with children, the effects are significant.

*****COVERAGE INVITED *****

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