



Senate Democrats

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Weekly Democratic Radio Address: U.S.A, Equal Pay

MADISON, WI – Senator Jon Erpenbach (D-West Point) offered the Democratic weekly radio address.

The audio file of this week’s address can be found here:

<https://sen-dem.cms.legis.wisconsin.gov/media/1304/sen-erpenbach-radio-address-equal-pay.mp3>

A written transcript of the address is below:

“Hi, I’m state Senator Jon Erpenbach with this week’s radio address.

“When the U.S. women’s soccer team won their fourth World Cup, fans erupted into the chant exclaiming “equal pay,” and that chant followed them back home, inspiring men, women, and children alike. Undoubtedly it is way past time that we recognize that it shouldn’t matter what your profession is- everyone deserves to be compensated for their hard work fairly; free from discrimination based on gender.

“Wisconsin once honored this sentiment by passing the Equal Pay Enforcement Act law in 2009, but the legislation was later repealed by Republicans in 2012. On average, including here in Wisconsin, women earn around 80 cents for every dollar a man makes, and that gap is larger for women of color. That doesn’t make a lot of sense, since women make up nearly half of our workforce and are huge contributors to our economy.

“By not paying women fairly, we are only hurting our state’s ability to grow. In order for our communities to thrive, we need to ensure that everyone has the best opportunity to succeed. Knowingly discriminating against workers based on their gender, rather than their merit, hinders our ability to compete in a global market.

“As we enter the second half of 2019, we know that enacting Equal pay legislation is far overdue. It is time for us to end discrimination in the workplace, and endorse equal pay for equal work. As the chant goes, ‘U.S.A., Equal Pay.’”

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