

Committees:

Insurance, Ranking Member
Technology and Innovation
Transportation and Public Safety
Economic and Workforce Development



Boards, Commissions, & Special Committees:

Ohio Gun Violence Prevention Caucus, Co-Chair
Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs
Ohio Aviation and Aerospace Technology
Committee

Jessica E. Miranda

State Representative

Chairman Stein, Vice-Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan, and members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony today on House Bill 232, the Ohio Equal Pay Act.

The Ohio Equal Pay Act will take crucial and long overdue steps to close the gender and racial wealth gap that currently hurts too many working families in Ohio.

Statistics show that women earn roughly 80 cents for every dollar the average man earns. Even more concerning, statistics show that African American women earn \$0.62, Native American women earn \$0.60 and Latina women earn \$0.54 for every dollar that a white man earns¹. To put this in perspective, the average Latina must work nearly 23 months to earn what white men earn in 12 months.²

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, women currently comprise half the U.S. workforce, and two-thirds of mothers bring home at least a quarter of their families' earnings each year. Working mothers and families are experiencing hardships, managing work and caregiving. With hybrid learning, limited child care and extra-curricular options, mothers have had to take on additional child care responsibilities.

The increased caregiving responsibilities by mothers during COVID-19 and the limited supply of child care options have impacted women's ability to return to work and their long term earnings.

It was also reported in January of this year that the U.S. economy lost 140,000 jobs in December, all of which were held by women. Furthermore, in Ohio, nearly 2.1 million women have experienced a loss of employment income since March 2020.³ These staggering numbers indicate the urgent need to address this gender disparity in our economy.

I'm proud to join Rep. Howse in putting forward legislation that will advance economic justice, give women the paychecks they deserve, and make Ohio a more business and worker friendly state for everyone. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on the Ohio Equal Pay Act.

¹ <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/women/reports/2020/03/24/482141/quick-facts-gender-wage-gap/>

² <https://www.latinaequalpay.org/>

³ <https://www.communitysolutions.com/status-women-getting-worse-ohio-preliminary-health-economic-data-shows-reason-concern/>