

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

*WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, year-round, full-time working women in 2011 earned only 82 percent of the earnings of year-round, full-time working men, indicating little change or progress in pay equity in the nation; and,*

*WHEREAS, according to the most recent data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Illinois women in 2011 earned 78 percent of every dollar earned by Illinois men based on median weekly earnings of full-time workers; and,*

*WHEREAS, equal pay for equal work strengthens the security of families today and eases future retirement costs while enhancing Illinois' economy; and,*

*WHEREAS, in 2003, the Illinois Equal Pay Act became law, prohibiting employers from paying unequal wages to men and women for doing the same or substantially similar work; and,*

*WHEREAS, since Illinois' equal pay law went into effect in 2004, the department has received more than 670 complaints and of the investigations completed to date, has successfully recovered more than half a million dollars in back pay for women who were illegally paid less than their male co-workers for doing the same work; and,*

*WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Labor promotes and protects the rights, wages, welfare, working conditions and safety and health of Illinois workers through enforcement of state labor laws; and,*

*WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Labor is a state agency dedicated to advancing pay equity in the workplace and protecting workers from gender-based wage discrimination through its enforcement of the Illinois Equal Pay Act; and,*

*WHEREAS, this year's Equal Pay Day will be even more significant, as 2013 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the federal Equal Pay Act of 1963; and,*

*WHEREAS, Tuesday, April 9 symbolizes the time in the new year in which wages paid to American women catch up to wages paid to men from the previous year and raises awareness of the wage gap between men and women:*

*THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim April 9, 2013 as ILLINOIS EQUAL PAY DAY, in recognition of the value of women's skills and contributions to the labor force, and I call on all employers to provide equal pay for equal work, both as a matter of fairness and as a matter of good business.*

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.*



*Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,*

*this \_\_\_\_\_ NINTH \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ APRIL \_\_\_\_\_, in*

*the Year of Our Lord two thousand and*

*\_\_\_\_\_ THIRTEEN \_\_\_\_\_, and of the State of Illinois*

*the one hundred and \_\_\_\_\_ NINETY-FIFTH \_\_\_\_\_*

*Deese White*

SECRETARY OF STATE

*Pat Quinn*

GOVERNOR