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## **Statement from Senator Bernie Sanders on Equal Pay Day 2017**

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Today is Equal Pay Day, symbolizing how far into 2017 women must work, on average, to earn what their male counterparts earned the previous year for doing the exact same jobs. Today, women only earn 80 cents for every dollar a man earns, which means the average woman worker loses more than \$530,000 over the course of her lifetime because of the gender wage gap. The gap is even worse for women of color: African American women earn just 65 cents for every dollar a white male earns, while the figure for Hispanic women is just 58 cents.

In Vermont, the gender wage gap is smaller – 84 cents for every dollar a man earns – but we still have much more work to do. At a time when families are being squeezed from every direction, we cannot wait another 50 years for pay equity. That is why I support the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would end wage discrimination based on gender.