



WHEREAS, Lilly Ledbetter is one of the most recognized and respected spokeswomen for the issue of pay equity today because she has battled corporations, courts, and legislators to ensure that equal work results in equal pay for women across the country; and,

WHEREAS, the only woman hired for her position, Ms. Ledbetter worked as an overnight supervisor for Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company for almost two decades, where she trained and oversaw new hires, who were all men. Building a reputation for high-quality work and her no nonsense demeanor, Ms. Ledbetter received the company's Top Performance Award in 1996; and,

WHEREAS, despite her outstanding quality of work and numerous accomplishments, Ms. Ledbetter eventually came to learn that she was being paid significantly less than her male counterparts, which resulted in less income for her family and a smaller pension for her retirement, simply because she was a woman; and,

WHEREAS, although she faced threats and harassment, Ms. Ledbetter courageously filed formal charges with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission against her employer for gender-pay discrimination. Soon thereafter, Ms. Ledbetter took her case to court, where she protested pay discrimination under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act and Equal Pay Act; and,

WHEREAS, while Ms. Ledbetter resolutely fought her case all the way to the Supreme Court, ultimately the Court did not rule on the plausibility of sex discrimination but instead on the statute of limitations. However, Ms. Ledbetter refused to give up, and her fight for equal pay for equal work struck a chord with many legislators across America; and,

WHEREAS, as the first piece of legislation he authorized in office, President Barack Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act into law on January 29, 2009, ensuring that all workers will have 180 days after any discriminatory paycheck to file a complaint, so that they will not have to face the circumstances Ms. Ledbetter did as a mother, provider, and retiree; and,

WHEREAS, on October 14, 2010, the Illinois Department of Human Rights, in partnership with the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Chicago District Office, Advisory Council on Women, Chicago Commission on Human Relations, Illinois Department of Labor, and Cook County Commission on Women's Issues will honor Ms. Ledbetter as she shares her remarkable story at the Chicago Cultural Center:

THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim October 14, 2010 as **LILLY LEDBETTER DAY** in Illinois, in recognition of the tremendous perseverance, dedication, and sense of justice Ms. Ledbetter exhibited in her fight for equal pay for equal work, for which our State will be forever grateful.

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 TWELFTH *day of* OCTOBER, *in*
the Year of Our Lord two thousand and
TEN, *and of the State of Illinois*
the one hundred and NINETY-SECOND

Isaac White
SECRETARY OF STATE

Pat Quinn
GOVERNOR