

Women are Bringing Home the Bacon and It Shouldn't Be Less Bacon

by Roz Klann

Today, June 10th marked the [50th Anniversary of the Passage of the Equal Pay Act](#)--the landmark legislation that brought the wage gap between women and men into focus and [WIPP](#) attended the Anniversary at the White House. But as President Obama noted in his remarks at the White House, significant disparities still exist between the incomes men and women receive for their work. The President went on to mention that women only earn 77 cents for every dollar earned by men and that despite improvements there is still much work to be done. Moreover, unequal wages disproportionately affect small businesses when customers have less money to spend, which stunts economic growth.

President Obama created the first-ever [White House Council on Women and Girls](#) and the [National Equal Pay Task Force](#) to enforce and increase compliance with equal pay laws. These initiatives make up a broader agenda aimed at eliminating the gender wage gap and stabilizing the economy. Significant progress has been made since 1963, but like the President said there is still much work to be done. By giving women pay parity in the workforce, more women have the opportunity to start their own small businesses, which are essential to the economic growth and employment opportunities available in this country. As the President said, "You wouldn't like it if your daughters or sons went to school but they only got taught three out of four days a week, or four out of five days a week. You wouldn't like it if you were forced to work every fourth day without pay. Men would be complaining about that. They wouldn't think that was equal or fair." It seems it's time to face the music, equal rights mean equal bacon.