



Monica R. Martinez
Suffolk County Legislator, 9th District
Courthouse Corporate Center
320 Carleton Avenue, Suite 4300
Central Islip, NY 11722
(P) 631.853.3700 (F) 631. 853.3568

CONTACT: lisa.pinkard@suffolkcountyny.gov
vanessa.zepeda@suffolkcountyny.gov
luis.montes-brito@suffolkcountyny.gov

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Legislator Martinez Sponsors Legislation Declaring April 8th “Equal Pay Day” in Suffolk County

Ninth District Suffolk County Legislator Monica R. Martinez sponsored legislation to declare April 8th “Equal Pay Day” in Suffolk County for women. The full County Legislature unanimously adopted the legislation at its March 18, 2014 general meeting in Hauppauge.

Women make up approximately 52% of the Suffolk County population. Women who work full time earn on average 77 cents for each dollar earned by a male counterpart, performing comparable work under comparable conditions, including comparable background, expertise, and experience. The figures are even worse for women of color; African-American women earn only 64 cents and Latina women earn 55 cents for each dollar earned by a white male worker.

Exacerbating the problem is a number of other factors. Women participate in the work force in greater numbers and percentages than ever before, in many instances becoming the sole income earner in their families due to skill or the difficult economic circumstances in which we live.

Joining Legislator Martinez in sponsoring the legislation were Third District Legislator Kate Browning, Fourth District Legislator Tom Muratore, Fifth District Legislator Kara Hahn, Sixth District Legislator Sarah Anker, Seventh District Legislator Robert Calarco and Eighteenth District Legislator William Spencer. Legislator Martinez has committed herself to collaborate with Suffolk County’s Office of Women’s Services to push this legislation forward; hence, closing the wage gap between men and women.

To commemorate April 8th, 2014, Legislator Martinez will join in celebrating “Equal Pay Day” with Enterprising and Professional Women of New York (EPW-NYS), HerStory Workshop and Suffolk County’s Executive Office of Women’s Services. Moderating this great event will be the Suffolk County Women’s Business Enterprise Coalition and panelists, which includes: Lisa Albinowski, Beverly Fortune, Dr. Christina Swinson and Audra Fordin.

This great fete will take place in the Health Sports Complex at the Michael J. Grant Campus of Suffolk County Community College in Brentwood on April 8th, 2014 at 8a.m. “*Women in Non-Traditional Jobs*” will be an event to be *remembered* for many years to come.