

PHILIP B. SCOTT
Governor



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

February 12, 2018

The Honorable Mitzi Johnson, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Tim Ashe, President Pro Tempore
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Madam Speaker and Senator Ashe:

As you've acknowledged, Vermont needs to restore its workforce to grow the economy and sustain, and increase, public investments we all value.

Unfortunately, women working full-time, year-round earn an average of 84 percent of what men in comparable roles earn, producing a wage gap of 16 percent. In addition, women coming out of college make about \$3 per hour less than men with the same amount of education.

Closing the wage gap could reduce Vermont's poverty rate by 57 percent and add \$1 billion dollars to our state's economy. More importantly, it would help us get one step closer to providing equality for all.

Advancing our work to ensure equal pay for equal work is an opportunity for us to come together on a bipartisan basis and make meaningful change.

With this in mind, I request you expedite the passage of either S.275 (an act relating to equal pay) or H.294 (an act relating to inquiries about an applicant's salary history) as written, with the goal of delivering one of them to me for my signature before the legislature breaks for Town Meeting.

Sincerely,

Philip B. Scott
Governor

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