



128 DORRANCE STREET, SUITE 400
PROVIDENCE, RI 02903
401.831.7171 (t)
401.831.7175 (f)
www.riaclu.org | info@riaclu.org

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF 18-H 7427—
AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS
April 12, 2018**

The ACLU of Rhode Island applauds the work of the legislative sponsors and organizations that have been working to put this legislation together to protect and expand equal pay protections for women in our state.

According to the National Women’s Law Center, “women in the U.S. who work full time, year round are paid only 78 cents for every dollar paid to their male counterparts. But the wage gap is even larger for many women of color working full time, year round, as Black women are paid only 64 cents, and Latinas only 56 cents, for every dollar paid to white, non-Hispanic men.” In Rhode Island, these gaps are even more troubling as Black women typically make 57 cents for every dollar and Latina women make an average of 48 cents for every dollar paid to white men.

Closing the wage gap is essential to the economic and social growth of our state, but particularly important for women of color, who are already more likely to have lower incomes and to be in poverty than virtually all other groups.

The ACLU supports this bill and strongly encourages this committee to do so as well.