

BOARD of CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

COUNTY of CAPE MAY

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*Health and
Human Services*

Elizabeth Bozzelli
Clerk of the Board

Office of the Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625
609-292-6000

Re: S992
A2750

Dear Honorable Chris Christie:

I am writing to you in support of Senate Bill 992 and Assembly Bill 2750, concerning equal pay for women and employment discrimination, and urge you to sign the bills into law. As an advocate for women's issues and a strong supporter of the Law Against Discrimination, it is my opinion that passage of this legislation would further strengthen New Jersey's commitment to eliminate discrimination in the workplace, regardless of sex, race or religion.

All too often, women are the head of their households and the sole source of financial stability for their family. Ensuring equal pay for equal work for women would, in many cases, reduce the need for assistance, instill pride and encourage a greater work ethic for these families. As New Jersey is feeling relief from the recession, there is no better time than now to include equal pay for women in the fight to grow healthy families and increase our economy.

A recent AAUW report showed a gender wage gap in New Jersey with an earnings ratio between men and women of 79 percent. We need to do a better job to show the country that New Jersey values women in the workplace and respects their contribution to the economy by closing the wage gap and making equal pay for women the law.

Again, on behalf of the Cape May County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Cape May County Commission on the Status of Women and the Cape-Atlantic Branch of the American Association of University Women, I respectfully request you to sign the bills passed by the Senate and General Assembly concerning equal pay for women and employment discrimination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "E. Marie Hayes".

E. Marie Hayes, Freeholder
Cape May County, New Jersey