



135 Broad Street
Hartford, CT 06105

CONTACT: Kelli Owens
(315) 723-1666
kellywca@earthlink.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

YWCA of the Hartford Region and YWCAs Across the Northeast Applaud President Obama for Signing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act

Hartford, CT (February 10, 2009) The YWCAs of the Northeast Regional Council, including the YWCA of the Hartford Region, are celebrating the signing of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act by President Obama. By signing this bill into law, President Obama ended years of discrimination against women in the workplace.

Lilly Ledbetter, the woman for whom the act is named, worked for Goodyear Tire for more than twenty years. She worked her way through a male dominated workplace to a supervisory position. Ms. Ledbetter worked hard for the company for over two decades. Once she found out she was being paid less than her male counterparts, she took her case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. The Court ruled that employees cannot challenge ongoing compensation discrimination if the employer's original discriminatory decision occurred more than 180 days before, even when the employee continues to receive paychecks that have been discriminatorily reduced.

Kelli Owens, Regional Advocacy Coordination of the YWCAs said, "Today's law enables individuals to challenge ongoing pay discrimination and protects workers from workplace discrimination. Unfortunately our work is not done yet. The United States Senate needs to finish their work by passing the Pay Check Fairness Act." The Lilly Ledbetter Act addresses the issue of legal recourse, but this additional act would put measures in place to prevent pay discrimination.

The YWCAs of the Northeast Region Council, which encompasses 33 local associations in the states of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Massachusetts, has long been an advocate for Pay Equity. The Region will continue to advocate for state and federal laws to protect women and people of color.

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Established in 1867, The YWCA of the Hartford Region is the third oldest affiliate of the YWCA USA, a women's membership movement whose mission is to empower women and girls and eliminate racism. Strengthened by diversity, the YWCA draws together members who strive to create opportunities for women's growth, leadership and power to attain a common vision: peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all people. The YWCA of the Hartford Region provides programs and services in the Greater Hartford area including childcare, supportive housing, teen leadership development, financial literacy and child abuse prevention.

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