

February 22, 2017

Dear Chair Holvey,

I write to voice my strong support for Oregon House Bill 2005 which works to promote equal pay for equal work. This particular issue hits close to home for me as a player for the United States women's national soccer team.

For the last several years we have been engaged in a fight to ensure the kind of pay equity this bill works to provide. In spite of our collective success as a team, including a World Cup win and a #1 ranking by FIFA, the profit we earn for U.S. Soccer, and comparable work obligations, male players are compensated in a very different way and more significantly.

The issue is not just about money either – it is about our basic treatment as players compared to our male counterparts. From the type of field we play on to the way we travel, there are big differences between genders in spite of our shared employer and shared profession.

Nationally, the type of gender discrimination we face is unfortunately normal. On average, women are paid \$.79 for every dollar that a man makes. When it comes to women of color, the inequity is even larger. And factors like education still do not level the playing field.

While our fight for future generations of female soccer players goes on, you have an opportunity in Oregon to ensure that working women do not face the type of inequity we do.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill and for your work to ensure equal pay for equal work.

Sincerely,
Becky Sauerbrunn
*Olympic Gold Medalist and
FIFA Women's World Cup Champion*