

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EQUITY AND SECURITY

1 Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc., deeply committed to women's
2 rights, supports the active pursuit of measures that will achieve economic equity and security for
3 women.

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5 The difference in wages earned by men and women, known as the wage gap, is one of the
6 greatest obstacles to women's economic equality and security in the United States. Although it
7 has been almost 35 years since Congress passed the Equal Pay Act to combat wage
8 discrimination, the wage gap between men and women's earnings persists. Currently, a woman
9 earns 76 cents to a man's dollar.

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11 Hadassah's long-time support for women's equality is demonstrated by previous domestic and
12 international policy statements for the Equal Rights Amendment, affirmative action and the
13 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

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15 Therefore, Hadassah urges stricter enforcement of pay equity laws, improvements in restrictive
16 pension policies and support for measures that will reduce the wage gap and bring about real
17 economic security for women.