



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Marisa DeFranco Stands for Equal Pay for Equal Work, Not Lies and Lip Service

MIDDLETON -- Have you heard of something called the Paycheck Fairness Act? It's Congress's latest attempt to appease women by "fixing" all of their problems in the workplace with "sweeping" legislation.

It's just a band-aid, where surgery is actually required.

That's not to say there are not some laudable passages of the Act. For example, the law requires wage discrimination cases to be treated just as seriously as race and ethnicity discrimination cases. But what your local Congressman won't tell you is that the Paycheck Fairness Act won't change the true problem, and that is the segregation of jobs by gender.

Simply stated: Jobs done mostly by women are paid much less than comparable jobs done by men. The jobs have the same skill, responsibility, effort and working conditions and the only real difference in the jobs is that the higher-paying job is done by men, and the other job is done by women.

Beyond that, Congress fails to realize that, while there are 1,000 equal pay discrimination claims

per year, there are also 27,000 sex discrimination claims and 7,200 sexual harassment claims filed with the EEOC. That means that 90 percent of the problem is largely ignored or inadequately addressed by the Paycheck Fairness Act.

While Congress pretends to have a panacea in place, Marisa DeFranco is on the ground fighting to stop the war on women. As an attorney and female business owner, she has dealt with this issue for her entire career.

"I support equal pay for equal and comparable work," Marisa said. "I have direct and on the ground experience with pay equity issues. As a Commissioner on the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, I led our group to Beacon Hill, and for the first time in 11 years, we got the bill voted out of committee favorably and garnered the written support of the Governor."

And she was able to do that as a volunteer. Now, she wants to go to Washington, as your full-time employee.

"I also want to say something on behalf of the hardworking men I know and have represented. In 2014, 4,628 people lost their lives at work. 92 percent of those who died were men," Marisa said. "So, while we are finding real solutions to discrimination against women, let's make sure that we are doing everything possible to keep men safe at work too."

Are you ready to hire someone who will fight for you and not just stand there, waving the Mission Accomplished banner when it comes to gender discrimination? Vote for Marisa DeFranco on September 9.

About Marisa DeFranco:

An immigration attorney for the past 17 years, Marisa DeFranco was named Top Woman of Law by the Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly and received national recognition by being awarded the National Legal Aid and Defender Association's Beacon of Justice Award for her pro bono service. She has been a leader in the National Organization for Women, serving as the Vice President of Legislative Policy for Massachusetts NOW. She also served on the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women. Marisa has shown time and time again that she is a strong spokesperson and advocate for equal pay for women, for ending violence against women, for civil rights and disability rights.

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