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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

1981 JUN -3 AM 10:57

ROBERT E. LIGHTHIZER, CHIEF COUNSEL
MICHAEL STERN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

June 3, 1981

Dear Colleague:

There isn't a member of this body who hasn't pledged his or her commitment to equal opportunities for women--either through ERA or through a statutory approach to equal rights legislation. On April 7th, we introduced legislation that gives every Senator an opportunity to act on that commitment.

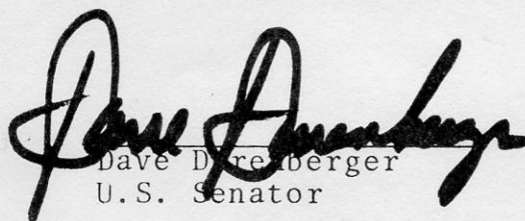
The Economic Equity Act alters a wide range of federal policies that deny women equal access to the economic marketplace. It removes barriers in tax and pension laws, child care, military promotion and retirement, estate taxation, insurance, child support and maintenance rights, and a host of other legislative and regulatory areas. We introduced S.888 because we believe

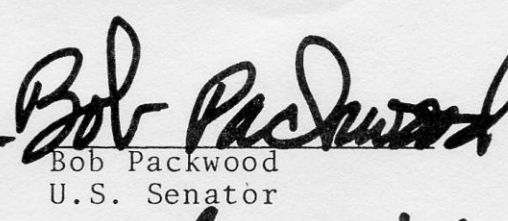
- It is unfair to require the average woman to work two to three years longer than the average man before she acquires vested pension rights.
- It is unfair to destroy thousands of family farms and businesses through a "widow's tax" that raises less than one percent of federal revenues.
- It is bad policy to force women out of the work force, and often onto welfare, because of a lack of day-care facilities.
- Conversely, it is unfair that federal pension, retirement and child support laws should force women who want to remain in the home into the labor force.
- It is unfair to exclude displaced homemakers from eligibility for the targeted jobs tax credit.
- It is unfair to give men an absolute preference over women in military inheritance and promotion laws.
- It is unfair to give a working man the right to unilaterally terminate his wife's survivorship benefits, without notice or any opportunity to appeal.

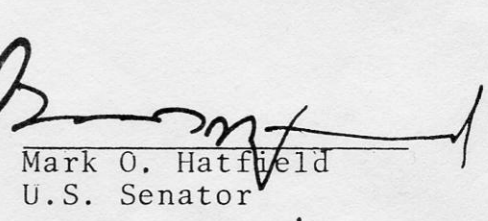
If you agree, we invite you to join us in sponsoring the Economic Equity Act.

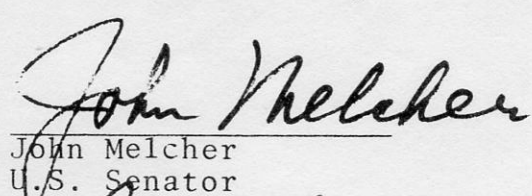
The sponsors of this bill believe that whether women elect to stay at home or enter the work force, they should not be penalized by laws which negatively affect their economic well-being. Federal Government policies should not be a roadblock to either direction. The sponsorship of the bill is bipartisan. Since its introduction six weeks ago, S.888 has drawn editorial endorsement from several dozen newspapers throughout the country, and the formal endorsement of women's groups from all ranges of the political spectrum. If you have any questions about the bill, or would like to join as a co-sponsor, please contact John Riley (Senator Durenberger - 43244), Janet Mullins (Senator Packwood - 45244), or Jenna Dorn (Senator Hatfield - 43753).

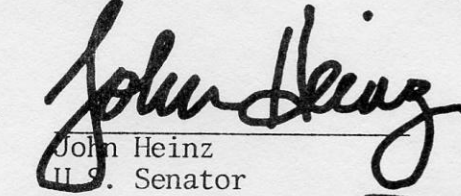
Sincerely,

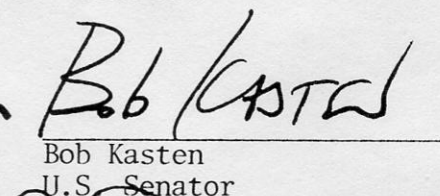
 Dave Durenberger
U.S. Senator

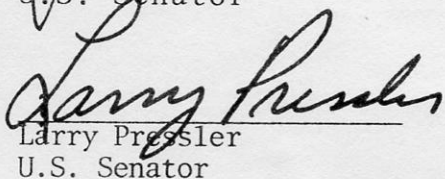
 Bob Packwood
U.S. Senator

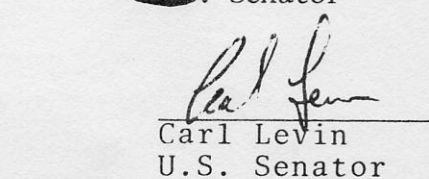
 Mark O. Hatfield
U.S. Senator

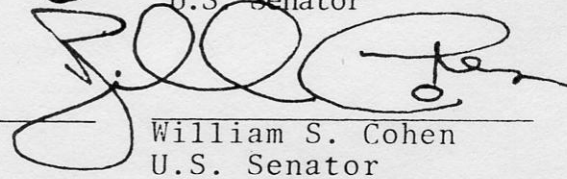
 John Melcher
U.S. Senator

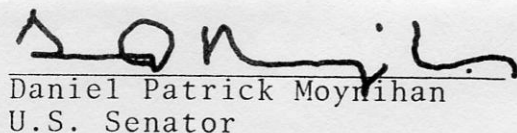
 John Heinz
U.S. Senator

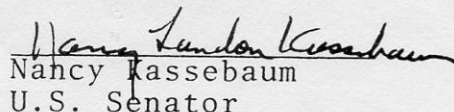
 Bob Kasten
U.S. Senator

 Larry Pressler
U.S. Senator

 Carl Levin
U.S. Senator

 William S. Cohen
U.S. Senator

 Daniel Patrick Moynihan
U.S. Senator

 Nancy Kassebaum
U.S. Senator