

Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators

www.MAWomensCaucus.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 19, 2023 Contact: Nora Bent, Executive Director, 617-319-2461

Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators Celebrates Senate Wage Equity Vote

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators applauds the Massachusetts State Senate for voting today on one of its legislative priorities, *An Act relative to salary range transparency*. This bill requires employers of a certain size to disclose pay ranges in job postings and helps to collect comprehensive data to better understand existing wage gaps.

At the beginning of the 2023-2024 legislative session, the Caucus conducted a thorough priority-setting process. *An Act relative to salary range transparency*, filed by **Sen. Jehlen** (D-Somerville), **Rep. Cutler** (D-Duxbury), and **Rep. Fluker Oakley** (D-Boston) was chosen as one of just five legislative priorities. The Caucus also endorsed *An Act relative to transparency in the workplace*, filed by **Sen. Feeney** (D-Foxborough), **Sen. Miranda** (D-Boston), **Rep. Rogers** (D-Cambridge), and **Rep. Barber** (D-Somerville). These bills were combined and reported favorably out of the Joint Committee on Labor & Workforce Development before passing the House of Representatives on October 4, 2023.

The Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators is a bipartisan and bicameral caucus with 62 members, comprising over 31% of the legislature. This session, the Caucus chose three overarching strategic priorities to guide its work: Elevating Women's Economic Opportunity and Eliminating Barriers, Addressing Racial and Gender Disparities in Health Care, and Empowering Women in Government. This legislation fits squarely within the Elevating Women's Economic Opportunity and Eliminating Barriers priority.

"Across sectors, we know that women, and particularly women of color, continue to make less than what white men make," said Women's Caucus Co-Chairs **Sen. Joan Lovely** (D-Salem) and **Rep. Hannah Kane** (R-Shrewsbury). "The Caucus has consistently advocated for closing these gender and racial wage gaps, and this bill represents the next step to ensure equity in our workplaces."

The Women's Caucus has actively participated with the Wage Equity Now Coalition in support of this bill. The Women's Caucus was founded in 1975 with a mission to enhance the economic status and equality of women and to encourage and support women in all levels of government.