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CHARLES D. LAVINE
Assemblyman 13th District

CHAIR
Ethics and Guidance Committee

CO-CHAIR
Legislative Ethics Commission

Dear Friend,

Earlier this year, most of my Assembly colleagues and I voted to pass the Women's Equality Act (A.8070). This bill, which shines a sorely needed light on the inequality women face each and every day, is a 10-point plan that would close the wage gap, protect women's reproductive rights, combat sexual harassment, strengthen human-trafficking laws and increase protections for victims of domestic violence.

The Women's Equality Act has been and continues to be my priority. I recently renewed my dedication to this cause by supporting a resolution declaring April 8, 2014 Equal Pay Day, thereby highlighting the deeply unfair wage disparity that impacts not only women but families as well. With child care costs skyrocketing, working mothers are struggling to find reliable, quality child care which forces them to make a difficult choice between their career and their family.

In passing our fourth consecutive on-time state budget, we were able to address this deficiency by expanding child care eligibility and increasing the number of day care slots available. Together, these actions will help mothers balance work and family.

And yet, it remains outrageous that these inequalities continue to exist. Were they alive today, the brave women who laid the foundation for women's rights would – I am certain – despair at the slow progress toward equality that has followed in the years since the 1848 Women's Rights Convention.

The New York State Senate has failed to pass the 10-point Women's Equality Act, which has now passed the Assembly in back-to-back sessions. The issues facing women today may be different than 150 years ago, but the battle for women's rights and equality continues.

As the proud grandson of a Suffragist who fought for the rights of women to vote nearly a century ago, I want you to know that you have my solemn assurance that I will continue to fight for human rights and for women's rights.

Sincerely,

Charles D. Lavine
Member of Assembly