

RELEASE IN PART B6

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B6

Senate Republicans Filibuster Fair Pay For Women

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The first bill President Obama signed after taking office was the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which made it easier for women to seek justice for pay discrimination. At the time, Sens. Susan Collins (R-ME), Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME) joined with Democrats to overcome strong Republican opposition to the bill.

But today, all three Republican senators voted against a motion to proceed on the Paycheck Fairness Act, a bill that "would further strengthen current laws against gender-based wage discrimination." The motion was defeated by a vote of 58-41, falling two votes short of the 60 needed for the bill to be considered on the Senate floor.

This is not the first time the Paycheck Fairness Act has stalled in the Senate. In 2008, the upper chamber failed to vote on the bill after it was approved by the House, which passed the legislation again in 2009 with the support of 10 Republicans.

Women earn barely three-quarters of what their male counterparts make for the same work, but conservatives have invented a number of ludicrous reasons for opposing equal pay legislation. For example, the Heritage Foundation has suggested that equal pay laws actually hurt women because businesses simply won't hire them if they are required to pay them fair wages. And Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) has claimed that women would receive better compensation if they just had more "education and training."