April 12, 2016

The Honorable Jenny R. Yang
Chair
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
131 M Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20507

Dear Chair Yang:

We are writing to express our support for prompt consideration of the federal complaint filed to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) by five team members of the United States Women’s National Team (U.S.W.N.T).

Women make up half the workforce, and are two-thirds of primary or co-breadwinners in America. Yet, after more than five decades after the passage of the Equal Pay Act of 1963, a woman still makes only 79 cents, on average, for every dollar earned by a man. That gap is even wider for women of color. Compared to white men, African American women are paid 60 cents, Native American women are paid 59 cents, and Hispanic Women are paid 55 cents.

In 2009, Congress passed and the President signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act into law, ensuring women who are discriminated against have the right to sue as long as their discriminatory pay continues. Yet, the discrimination associated with the pay gap persists.

Paying people fairly for the work they do shouldn’t be dependent on their gender, race or ethnicity. By acting for women now, and ensuring they get paid the same as men for the same work, we can give them, their families and our entire economy the tools to recover and thrive.

Once again, we urge your prompt consideration in this case.

Sincerely,

Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress
Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress

Pedro R. Pierluisi  
Member of Congress

John Conyers, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress

Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress

Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress

Katherine Clark  
Member of Congress

John K. Delaney  
Member of Congress

Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress

Grace Meng  
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

Loretta Sanchez  
Member of Congress

Tim Walz  
Member of Congress

Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress

Robert C. (Bobby) Scott  
Member of Congress

Sam Farr  
Member of Congress

Xavier Becerra  
Member of Congress