

## NCGB Press Event Script

### **Introduction:**

Good morning, my name is Jasmine Whaley and I am an Organizer at Working America, the community affiliate of the AFL-CIO. We currently have about 45,000 WA members in the state of North Carolina, 16,000 of whom are women in the Triad area.

Today, Working America, and our 45,000 members in North Carolina, is here to stand in support of House Bill 578, the Families Economic Security Act of North Carolina sponsored by Representatives Cunningham, Fisher, Meyer, and Reives.

As a non-profit in Greensboro, we are no strangers to the need for good, quality jobs and wages. Our members have consistently ranked good jobs and higher wages as one of their most important issues. We know what a living wage means--the relief and security that it can give to a family or to a working, single mother. And it is this understanding that has led us to look at a Family Wage campaign in Greensboro that will allow workers to make enough money to take care of their families.

And, while the need to raise wages is clear, we also know that the need to ensure that all workers are being paid an equal amount for the work that they do is needed, as well. Under the Families' Economic Security Act, employers would be required by law to pay women and men equal pay for equal work.

This is not a huge ask. It is not unreasonable to assert that employers be mandated to protect their workers by ensuring that women and men, who are doing the same work, be paid the same amount. Equal compensation is no longer an issue that can afford to wait.

We are here today to tell our legislators that delay is no longer acceptable.

Ensuring secure wages for women means ensuring secure wages for families. It means making sure that our sons and daughters are given the best chance at a desirable quality of life. It means allowing North Carolinians to have their wages reflect the respect and dignity that they are due be reflected by way that they are compensated.

The need for a family wage is clear. The benefit of a family wage is clear. This is why Working America, and our 45,000 North Carolinians that we represent, are standing behind the Families' Economic Security Act and will be pushing for fair and higher wages.

Worker's rights are women's rights. Today, we are joining with our partners to deliver a strong message to the North Carolina legislature about the importance of standing up for those rights.