April 14, 2017 – Introduced by Representatives Sinicki, Ohnstad and Bowen. Referred to Committee on Rules.

Relating to: observing Tuesday, April 4, 2017, as Equal Pay Day in Wisconsin.

Whereas, Equal Pay Day occurs each year on the day when a woman has finally earned the same yearly salary as her male counterpart did the previous year; and

Whereas, since World War II, when Wisconsin women worked in factories and shipyards, Wisconsin women have remained among the most likely in the United States to be in the paid workforce—ranking fifth among the states; and

Whereas, in 2015, about 1.3 million Wisconsin women were in the labor force (across all sectors), and according to the U.S. Census Bureau, this represented 79 percent of women in Wisconsin between the ages of 20 and 60—well above the national average of 72 percent of women, and among Wisconsin women with children under age six, 81 percent were in the labor force, compared to 71 percent nationally; and

Whereas, working Wisconsin women truly contribute to a profoundly better quality of life in our state by significantly raising the incomes of their families and their communities; and
Whereas, Wisconsin narrowed its pay equity gap between 2004, when women earned on average 29 cents less per dollar than men, and 2015, when women earned 22 cents less per dollar; and

Whereas, continued progress in narrowing the pay equity gap in Wisconsin will help greatly to maintain Wisconsin’s overall high quality of life; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the assembly, That Tuesday, April 4, 2017, is recognized as Equal Pay Day in Wisconsin.