

March 26, 2014

Lt. Governor David Dewhurst Capitol Station P.O. Box 12068 Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Lt. Governor Dewhurst:

Recent media reports have highlighted potential pay inequities within state agencies.

Because we are committed to equal pay for equal work – no matter one's race, gender, religion, national origin, age or disability – we as the Texas Senate Democratic Caucus request that you charge the appropriate Senate committee to study during the interim the issue of pay equity at all state agencies. This study should evaluate inequity in compensation at state agencies and provide policy recommendations that the Senate can consider in the next legislative session.

Texas can do better. And Texas will be even greater when we assure all people are treated equally. We believe that unequal pay for equal work is unacceptable in Texas. We are hopeful that you agree and will, as a result, establish this interim study.

Legislators tried to address pay inequality when both chambers, with bi-partisan support, passed the Lilly Ledbetter Act (House Bill 950) in last year's legislative session. The Governor vetoed the bill after both chambers supported it.

An interim study on pay disparity at state governmental agencies will help the legislature ensure that all Texans receive equal pay for equal work. There should be no controversy with the proposition that people deserve equal pay for doing the same job. Please help us protect what should be a fundamental right for all Texans.

Respectfully,

Wendy R. Davis