



TSTA NEWS

TEXAS STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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TSTA: Texas women deserve equal pay and a governor who will advocate for it

Today, the Texas State Teachers Association challenged Attorney General Greg Abbott to explain why he is content to see Texas women continue to be paid, on average, about 80 cents for every dollar a man earns in the same job.

In an interview on WFAA-TV's Inside Politics on Sunday, Abbott refused to say whether he would sign an equal pay bill for Texas women. By contrast, Senator Wendy Davis sponsored and passed equal pay legislation with bipartisan support in the state Senate, only to see it vetoed by the governor.

"Equal pay is about more than just economics, it's about the values we teach our children every day," said TSTA President Rita Haecker. "We teach the value of work and equality to our children in school, and this value must be carried through in the work place."

Haecker noted that almost 80 percent of Texas teachers are women, and they see the impact of poverty and income inequality every day in their classrooms.

"When a wage earner is underpaid, our students often suffer the consequences, because income and poverty are very important factors in educational opportunity," Haecker said. "In the 21st century, there should be no debate about equal pay for equal work, and we know Wendy Davis will work to make sure Texas law reflects that fundamental value."