

## **GIRL SCOUTS HOST CONGRESSMAN DONALD NORCROSS FOR WOMEN'S PAY EQUITY PRESS CONFERENCE**

Central & Southern NJ – On February 17, 2016, Representative Donald Norcross, congressman for NJ's 1st congressional district, visited with the Girl Scouts of Central and Southern New Jersey (GSCSNJ) to talk about equal pay for equal work, regardless of gender. Joining Congressman Norcross at the event were GSCSNJ CEO Ginny Marino, Assemblywoman Pamela Lampitt, Assemblywoman Gabriela Mosquera, New Jersey AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer Laurel Brennan, and American Association of University Women/NJ President Sally Goodson.

Citing U.S. Department of Labor statistics, Norcross noted that women earn \$0.79 for every dollar earned by men; for women of color, that gap widens to \$0.60 for African American woman and \$0.55 for Latina women. Women have to work an average of 100 days more than men each year to match their male counterparts' annual salary, the Labor Department found. Lampitt took this statistic a bit further, and broke it into workweek hours – that women have to work 66 hours for every man's 40 hours.

"Women are the backbone of our families and our country. And many of them have proven they can pull their weight and do everything a man can do. Yet, in many cases, women performing the very same jobs as men are earning less. That's outrageous. This is bad for women, it's bad for American families, and it's bad for our economy," said Rep. Norcross. "What kind of message does this teach young boys and girls when women earn less for doing the same job as men? The Girl Scouts here today follow Girl Scout Law which pledges honesty, fairness, courage, responsibility and respect. Congress needs to heed the Girl Scout Law and make the Paycheck Fairness Act law," said Rep. Norcross.

"The success of our organization – and for girls – is predicated upon the notion that women and girls have an equal shot to be financially sound and successful in our economy. It's predicated upon the notion that the playing field is level and that they would receive equal pay for equal work. And yet, we are here today because the persistent gender wage gap tells us that this is not the case," said Ginny Marino Chief Executive Officer of the Girl Scouts of Central & Southern New Jersey. In *The Status of Women in the States: 2015--Employment and Earnings*, the Institute for Women's Policy Research projects that if current trends continue, the wage gap will remain until 2058 and in many states, won't close until the next century. That's too long to wait – our girls are counting on us to level that playing field. It's too long to let another generation of women experience discrimination that adversely affects their financial future."

Three Girl Scouts participated in this conference. First, Sophia Djeng, a Junior Girl Scout, talked about her aspirations to be a CEO, just like Ginny Marino. Djeng noted, "As a 10-year-old, I think that people should be given the same opportunities and same rewards for the same hard work – no matter what!" Next, Ali Brasby, a 15-year old Senior Girl Scout added, "I am a hard-working person and I expect to be compensated the same amount as the next person for the same amount of effort, regardless of gender

or any other factor.” Lastly, Anna Holemans spoke about the importance of closing the gender pay gap and her Girl Scout Gold Award Project, a Walk for Equality in Washington D.C in January 2017.

Girl Scouts of Central & Southern NJ cannot officially endorse any legislation, but rather endorses the concept of Gender Pay Equity and its importance for the future economic stability of our girls.

### **About Girl Scouts of Central & Southern NJ, Inc.**

Girl Scouts of Central & Southern NJ (GSCSNJ) is the premier organization serving 19,000 girls in over nine counties. GSCSNJ will shape leaders for tomorrow by empowering girls to take on bold challenges, discover their own passions and strengths, act with character, and engage fully in fun, relevant experiences that encourage friendships and build life-long skills. For more information on how to join, volunteer, reconnect or donate to Girl Scouts of Central & Southern NJ, call (800) 582-7692 or visit [www.gscsnj.org](http://www.gscsnj.org). You can also connect with GSCSNJ on Twitter @GSCSNJ or Facebook.com/GSCSNJ!