

## **Statement of Ms. Megan Rapinoe**

It's my honor to be in front of you today. Equal pay and equality in general is a deep and personal passion of mine.

What we've learned and what we continue to learn is that there is no level of status, accomplishments, or power that will protect you from the clutches of inequity. One cannot simply outperform inequality of any kind.

I am here today because I know firsthand that this is true. We are told in this country that if you just work hard and continue to achieve - you will be rewarded fairly. It's the promise of the American dream. But that promise isn't for everyone.

The Women's National Team has won four World Cup championships and four Olympic gold medals on behalf of our country. We have filled stadiums, broken viewing records, and sold out jerseys.

Yet despite all of this, we are still paid less than men -- for each trophy, each win, each tie, each time we play.

Less.

And if that can happen to us, to me, with the brightest lights shining on us - it can, and it does, happen to every person who is marginalized by gender. And we don't have to wait. We don't have to continue to be patient. We can change that today. Right now.

We just have to want to.