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Women’s Rights Groups and Faith Leaders, Economic Justice Groups Rally to Support Fairness for Pregnant Workers

#StandWithPeggy Rally To Take Place Outside Supreme Court Oral Arguments

Washington, D.C.—Hundreds of supporters will attend a rally supporting Peggy Young, the plaintiff in a pregnancy discrimination Supreme Court case on Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2014, while the Supreme Court hears oral arguments in *Young v. UPS*. Elizabeth Gedmark, Director of the A Better Balance Southern Office, will emcee the rally that will be attended by women’s rights, labor, faith, and other leaders to show their support for pregnant workers.

The Stand With Pregnant Workers Rally will take place in front of the Supreme Court of the United States, 1 First St NE, Washington D.C., on Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2014, from 9:30 to 11:30 am ET.

Young was pushed onto unpaid leave from her job at UPS after she requested a doctor-advised reprieve from heavy lifting for the health of her pregnancy. UPS denied her request because of a company-wide policy stating that light duty will not be given to workers with certain medical conditions, such as pregnancy. However, the policy did provide light duty work to many other classes of employees, such as those who were injured on-the-job or those with disabilities.

UPS has since then changed their policy and now provides reasonable accommodations for pregnant employees, but still maintains that the actions they took against Young were lawful. Young suffered economic hardship and lost her health benefits shortly before giving birth.

“Unfortunately, Peggy Young’s story is not an isolated instance – and no woman should have to suffer the financial hardship she endured simply to maintain a healthy pregnancy. We see this problem all the time in our free legal clinic—pregnant women are pushed out of their jobs when they just need a modest accommodation to stay healthy and employed,” said Dina Bakst, Co-Founder & Co-President of A Better Balance. “We are standing with Peggy Young because we see firsthand the economic consequences that occur when women are pushed out of their jobs right when they need income the most to support their families.”

The oral arguments come the same week that Police Officer Lyndi Trischler returns to work with the Florence County Police Department in Kentucky. Officer Trischler’s story garnered international media coverage after A Better Balance filed a charge of discrimination on her behalf with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in July 2014. Officer Trischler was pushed out of her job when she was five months pregnant and could no longer do physically



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strenuous patrol work. Although the Department had light duty work available, they stated they could not accommodate her because of a citywide policy that said light duty would only be provided to those with on-the-job injuries.

“This week, I am returning to work after giving birth, eight weeks after my son passed away. I cannot be there with you today, but I am there in spirit, cheering on Peggy Young and other women who have had to go through what we have,” Officer Trischler will say in a statement to be read aloud at the rally.

A Better Balance co-authored an [amicus \(friend of the court\) brief in the case](#) with the ACLU Women’s Rights Project. The brief explains how policies like UPS's are clearly illegal under the plain text of the federal Pregnancy Discrimination Act (PDA) and contrary to Congressional intent. Using the stories of real women, the brief articulates the devastating economic effect that policies like UPS’s have on women and families across the country.

Note to Media: Dina Bakst, A Better Balance co-founder and co-president, is available for interviews.

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