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Women's Equality Agenda Rally Heats Up

By: Sheba Clarke

It was 140 years ago today that Susan B. Anthony went on trial for voting illegally, and when it comes to equal rights for women, some local organizations rallied to continue her cause. Dozens rallied in support of Governor Cuomo's Women's Equality Agenda, but things didn't quite go off without a hitch.



All you needed was an activist spirit and a sign to rally for women's equality.

"For much of my life, I was paid less money than the men that were doing the exact same job. That's crap! Sorry," said Kath Buffington, Rochester.

Susan B. Anthony Park seemed to be the perfect backdrop for advocacy groups and organizations to gather in support of Governor Cuomo's 10-point plan for the Women's Equality Agenda.

"Pay equality and housing, housing discrimination is a huge issue in this community and all those things go together every single day, all 10 points," said Katherine Smith, steering committee member for Women's Equality Agenda, Finger Lakes Region.

But not too long after things got started, the rally turned into quite the circus. Protesters with a local feminist group agreed with just about all of the 10-point legislation, except one.

"We are here in opposition to the abortion component of the Women's Equality Act," said Hanna Murphy, Feminists Choosing Life action volunteer.

And they came to demonstrate their disapproval.

"Unfortunately, I've had three abortions of my own and so when I see things like this going on and they say that they care for women and they want women to have this freedom, they don't understand that it isn't really a freedom because it takes away so much about what protecting women is all about," Dorina Hayes, volunteer.

The protest even brought out the police to help keep the peace.

Regardless of the controversy, Cuomo's 10-point legislation for women's equality is expected to be voted on by the Assembly this week.

Both parties agree the best way to honor Susan B. Anthony is to continue the work that she started.

"She worked on the right to vote for 73 years and did not live to see it happen," said Smith.