



April 29, 2014

Dear Member of Congress:

As communities of faith united by our common religious traditions and values of justice and compassion, we write to you today to urge you to support the Minimum Wage Fairness Act (S. 2223/H.R. 1010) introduced by Senator Tom Harkin and Representative George Miller.

This important piece of legislation would raise the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$10.10 in three increments of 95 cents, beginning about six months after enactment. The bill would also provide for annual increases in the rate in future years to keep pace with the rising cost of living. The bill would also raise the minimum wage for tipped workers from \$2.13 to 70% of the federal minimum wage. The last time the tipped wage was raised was in 1991.

Raising the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 would keep a family of three above the poverty line. This raise would give low-income workers the opportunity to be economically independent. Not only will raising the federal minimum wage bring economic security to minimum wage earners working full time, it will also help boost our economy. Low-income workers will spend higher wages at local businesses. According to the Economic Policy Institute, raising the minimum wage would generate more than \$22 billion in new economic activity and contribute to 85,000 new jobs to the economy over the phase-in period.

Right now, the federal minimum wage is at a historic low. If the minimum wage had kept pace with inflation since 1968, a minimum wage worker would earn \$10.71 per hour today. Our common scriptures present a vision of shared responsibility, commanding that we care for the vulnerable among us and also endows the notion of work with an inherent dignity. Right now it is imperative that our nation's leaders keep our economy on the pathway to a healthy recovery and support low-wage workers. We believe you can do so by supporting the Minimum Wage Fairness Act. Please vote for this bill when it comes to the floor.

Sincerely,

American Friends Service Committee
Bread for the World
Christian Reformed Church in North America Office of Social Justice
Disciples Home Missions
Disciples Justice Action Network
Ecumenical Poverty Initiative
The Episcopal Church
Friends Committee on National Legislation
The Ignatian Solidarity Network
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas - Institute Justice Team
U.S. Jesuit Conference
Union for Reform Judaism
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries
United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society