

The undersigned organizations enthusiastically support the Raise the Wage Act of 2017, as introduced by Senators Bernie Sanders (VT) and Patty Murray (WA), Representatives Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA) and Keith Ellison (MN).

If enacted, this legislation would:

- Raise the federal minimum wage to \$9.25 this year and increase it over the next seven years until it reaches \$15 an hour in 2024;
- After 2024, adjust the minimum wage each year to keep pace with growth in the typical worker’s wages;
- Phase out the outdated subminimum wage for tipped workers, which has been frozen at a meager \$2.13 since 1991; and,
- Sunset the much criticized ability of employers to pay workers with disabilities a subminimum wage through certificates issued by DOL.
- Phase out the subminimum wage for workers under the age of 20.

At a time when wage stagnation and income inequality pose serious threats to our families and our economy, the Raise the Wage Act of 2017 would begin to reverse that cycle and raise pay broadly across the bottom of the workforce. According to data from the Economic Policy Institute, this Act will deliver long-overdue raises to a large segment of the workforce: more than 1 in 4 workers, 90% of whom are over the age of 20. The average age of workers who would get a raise is 36, nearly half have some years of college education, and 20 percent hold associate’s degrees or higher. In fact, those who work year-round would see a raise in the order of \$3,500 a year, which is enough to make a tremendous difference in the life of a preschool teacher, bank teller, or fast-food worker who today struggles to get by on around \$20,000 per year.

More than 27 percent are working parents with children, and half have family incomes of less than \$40,000 per year. Women make up nearly 56 percent of the workers who would benefit from a \$15 minimum wage, which would be instrumental in helping to close the gender-wage-gap. Raising the minimum wage to \$15 would also significantly benefit workers of color, with 40 percent of African Americans workers and 34 percent of Latinos seeing a pay increase once this law goes into effect.

These are the frontline workers who make America run -- yet due to the erosion of the real value of the minimum wage over the last half century, they are struggling even as our economy enjoys a solid recovery.

The time for the Raise the Wage Act is long overdue, and we cannot delay in working toward its passage. We call on Congress to enact this important piece of legislation as quickly as possible, and for President Trump to sign it when it comes to his desk.

Economic Policy Institute  
National Employment Law Project

9to5 California  
9to5 Colorado  
9to5 Georgia  
9to5 Wisconsin  
9to5, National Association of Working Women  
A Better Balance  
AFL-CIO  
Alliance for a Better Utah  
Amalgamated Transit Union NJ State Joint Council  
American Association of University Women (AAUW)  
American Federation of Government Employees  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees  
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS  
American Postal Workers Union  
Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey  
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
BCTGM International Union  
Bend the Arc Jewish Action  
CATA - The Farmworker Support Committee  
Center for American Progress  
Center for Community Change Action  
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)  
Center on Policy Initiatives  
Coalition of Labor Union Women  
Communications Workers of America (CWA)  
Connecticut Legal Services, Inc.  
DC Abortion Fund  
DC Fiscal Policy Institute  
DISABILITY LAW CENTER  
Disability Law Center of Alaska  
Disability Power & Pride, Inc.  
Disability Rights Arkansas, Inc.  
Disability Rights California  
Disability Rights Center - New Hampshire  
Disability Rights Center of the Virgin Islands  
Disability Rights Maryland  
Disability Rights Mississippi  
Disability Rights NC  
Disability Rights New Jersey  
Disability Rights New Mexico  
Disability Rights of West Virginia  
Disability Rights Vermont  
Disability Rights Washington  
Economic Opportunity Institute

Economic Progress Institute (RI)  
Fair World Project  
Family Values @ Work  
Feminist Majority  
Fight for \$15 Cleveland  
Food & Water Watch  
FORGE, Inc.  
Forward Together  
Futures Without Violence  
Greater New Jersey Pride at Work  
Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
Homeless Persons Representation Project of Maryland  
Indiana Institute for Working Families  
Interfaith Worker Justice  
International Brotherhood of Teamsters  
International Union, UAW  
Jesuit. Provincials of the United States  
Jobs With Justice  
Justice in Motion  
Kentucky Equal Justice Center  
Keystone Progress  
Keystone Research Center  
La Plata County Thrive! Living Wage Coalition  
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement  
Labor Project for Working Families  
Lambda Legal  
Legal Aid at Work  
Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy  
Los Angeles LGBT Center  
MomsRising  
MoveOn.org  
NAACP  
NAACP Newark, NJ Branch  
National Action Network  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum  
National Association of Letter Carriers  
National Black Justice Coalition  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council of La Raza  
National Disability Rights Network  
National Domestic Workers Alliance  
National Education Association

National Employment Law Project  
National Employment Lawyers Association  
National Immigration Law Center  
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National Urban League  
National Women's Law Center  
Native American Disability Law Center  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice  
New Jersey Policy Perspective  
New Jersey Working Families Alliance  
New Labor  
NJ State Industrial Union Council  
North Carolina Justice Center  
Organization (exactly as you want it listed)  
Oxfam America  
PathWays PA  
People Demanding Action  
Policy Matters Ohio  
PolicyLink  
Pride at Work  
Professional Aviation Safety Specialists  
Progress For All  
ProgressNow  
Project IRENE  
Raise Up Cleveland  
Raise Up Ohio  
RESULTS  
Rooted in Rights  
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law  
SEIU District 1199 WV/KY/OH  
SEIU Ohio Joint State Council No. 25  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)  
SiX Action  
South Florida Interfaith Worker Justice  
Southern Poverty Law Center  
Teamsters Local 469  
Texas Organizing Project  
The Agenda Project  
The Fairness Project  
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
The Patriotic Millionaires  
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society

The Voter Participation Center  
Time for a Raise  
UC Berkeley Labor Center  
Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation  
United Food and Commercial Workers International Union  
United Mine Workers of America  
United Steelworkers (USW)  
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity  
Utah Indivisible  
Utility Workers Union of America  
Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs  
Washington Metro Disabled Students Collective  
Wind of the Spirit, Immigrant Resource Center  
Women Employed  
Women's Law Project  
Women's Voices, Women Vote Action Fund  
Worker Justice Committee  
Working America  
Working Families Party  
Workplace Fairness