



Monroe County Legislature

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To The Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
39 West Main Street
Rochester, NY 14614

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No. <u>120107</u>
Not to be removed from the Office of the Legislature Of Monroe County
Committee Assignment
Memorializing Referral -L

RE: Memorializing the New York State Legislature to Pass and Governor Cuomo to Sign A9148, An Act to Amend the Labor Law, in Relation to the Minimum Wage and Make Technical Corrections Relating Thereto

The ability to earn a living, support a family and contribute to our economy is at the very bedrock of our society. Without exception, Americans believe that a fair wage should be paid for an honest days work. Unfortunately, in New York State, the minimum wage is an abysmal \$7.25 per hour, which equals \$290 per week and \$14,500 per year based on a 50 week work year. Thankfully, a bill has been introduced in the New York State Assembly to address this issue.

There is simply no way a person can support themselves on \$14,500 per year. Recent increases in the minimum wage have had a positive effect on low income wage earners, but we must do more. That's why we fully support Bill A9148, which would increase the minimum wage to \$8.50 per hour starting on January 1, 2013, and it would thereafter tie increases in the minimum wage to the inflation rate.

The current minimum wage in our State is set at the same level as the federal minimum wage. While New Yorkers struggle to earn a living on these meager wages, other states have already adopted minimum wages higher than the federally required level of \$7.25 per hour. In fact, there are 17 states with a higher minimum wage than New York. States such as Montana, California, Michigan, Alaska, Maine and Arizona, among others, are already a step ahead of New York when it comes to this issue.

This common sense legislation will provide much needed relief to those in our communities who are most at need. Importantly, this legislation will also help our friends and neighbors who are currently working, but simply can't make ends meet under the current minimum wage. And, this legislation will provide a meaningful step towards closing the immense income equality gap that exists between our wealthiest citizens and those who earn the least.

Clearly, we can no longer allow our citizens to be paid wages so low that it's impossible to make a living or support even one person, let alone a family. We must increase the minimum wage in New York State. Therefore, we urge you to join us in asking that the New York State Legislature pass and Governor Cuomo sign A9148, An Act to Amend the Labor Law, in Relation to the Minimum Wage and Make Technical Corrections Relating Thereto.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie M. Andrews

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