

Raise the Minimum Wage

“There is nothing but a lack of social vision to prevent us from paying an adequate wage to every American whether he [or she] is a hospital worker, laundry worker, maid, or day laborer.”

– Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Federal Minimum Wage Campaign

Interfaith Worker Justice is working with a coalition of groups to pass the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2013, which would raise the minimum wage to \$10.10/hour, tie the tipped wage to 70% of the minimum wage, and “index” both so they can keep pace with inflation. Members of the U. S. House of Representatives and the U. S. Senate need to commit to supporting this bill.

Minimum Wage Facts:

- The current federal minimum wage of \$7.25 is far too low. Compare this to 1968 when the value of the minimum wage (in today’s dollars) was around \$10.50.
- A mother of 2 working full-time at the current minimum wage earns below the federal poverty line.
- Contrary to opponents arguments the vast majority of research shows that raising the minimum wage has no effect on unemployment.
- Indexing is crucial to protect worker’s future wages. Without it minimum wage workers ability to keep pace with inflation are prey to the whims of partisan politics.
- Over 30 million workers would directly and indirectly receive a boost from raising the minimum wage
- Research shows that raising the minimum wage would boost the economy by putting more money in the pockets of those who will spend it

What You Can Do

1. Pray for all workers earning wages inadequate to sustain their families.
2. Call your Congressional Representative and Senators at (202) 224-3121 and encourage them to sign on to the Federal Minimum Wage Act of 2013.
3. Send an email to your representative at www.iwj.org.
4. Educate yourself on the issue at www.iwj.org

Sources: Why Does the Minimum Wage Have No Discernible Effect on Employment? February 2013. CEPR. John Scmitt. Raising the federal minimum wage to \$10.10... Center for Economic Progress. March 2013. David Cooper and Doug Hall



Prayer for a Living Wage

Living God, we confess that we have not fully accepted the challenge of seeking Your justice in the world. We define justice in ways that preserve our own self-interest, forgetting that Your justice may call us to great sacrifice.

We pray for workers whose wages are so low that they face terrible choices between paying the rent and feeding their families.

God of compassion, hear our prayer.

We pray that the courageous cries of workers for justice will be heard by their employers, by the community, and by our government.

God of compassion, hear our prayer.

We pray for employers in our city, that they will accept their responsibility to pay their workers enough to live.

God of compassion, hear our prayer.

We pray for companies that abuse the dignity of their workers and refuse to see their employees as brothers and sisters.

God of compassion, hear our prayer.

We pray for all the citizens of our community, that we will hold our government and businesses in our community accountable for the ways they treat their workers.

God of compassion, hear our prayer.

Hear now O God the prayers that we lift aloud or in silence to you.

By Rev. Rebekah Jordan, Mid-South Interfaith Network for Economic Justice