



For Immediate Release

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The New Jersey State Assembly Moves the Issue of a Meaningful Minimum Wage to the Voters.

Today, February 14, 2013, The NJ State Assembly passed SCR1, taking the final step necessary to place the question of raising the state's minimum wage with indexing on the fall 2013 ballot. The ballot measure would amend the constitution to raise the New Jersey minimum wage to \$8.25 and make future annual adjustments based on CPI increases.

The Time to Care Coalition thanks the Assembly for showing that they care for working families by passing the resolution. Last month, Governor Christie vetoed the statutory minimum wage bill, A2162, and by passing SCR1, the Assembly will allow New Jersey to create a strong state minimum wage standard.

Raising the wage would put more money in workers' pockets, which would provide the state with a significant economic stimulus. Research has shown that a \$1 more per hour is estimated to generate approximately \$195 million in additional economic activity and will create close to 2,500 full-time jobs in New Jersey.

President Obama's call to raise the federal minimum wage to \$9 and tie it to the cost of living reaffirms the path New Jersey is on. With today's Assembly vote, the question to raise the state's minimum wage with indexing in New Jersey will be placed in the voters' hands. New Jersey must act quickly as wages continue to erode and NJ Democratic leadership started the ball rolling, and the issue will now be in voters' hands.

The Coalition and its 80 plus members and allies applaud the General Assembly for their affirmative vote and Speaker Oliver's unwavering position on raising the minimum wage and tying future increases to inflation.

New Jersey Time to Care Coalition is a broad-based group of community, advocacy, union, religious, research, and academic organizations working to support policies that strengthen communities by ensuring that working families can

It could mean the difference between groceries or the food bank; rent or eviction; scraping by or finally getting ahead. For businesses across the country, it would mean customers with more money in their pockets.

In fact, working folks shouldn't have to wait year after year for the minimum wage to go up while CEO pay has never been higher. So here's an idea that Governor Romney and I actually agreed on last year: let's tie the minimum wage to the cost of living, so that it finally becomes a wage you can live on.

Thanks to Gov. Chris Christie's veto, New Jersey is not among them, despite our high cost of living. To work around him, Democrats have proposed a constitutional amendment to bump the minimum to \$8.25 and link it to inflation.

Vote yes on that one in November. Given the stalemate in Washington, it is the only real hope for low-wage families.