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The Time to Care Coalition Praises the New Jersey State Senate and President Sweeney for Again Approving Resolution SCR1 to Place the Issue of a Meaningful Minimum Wage on the Fall Election Ballot

Today the New Jersey Senate voted YES on resolution SCR1 which calls for a constitutional amendment to raise New Jersey's minimum wage with indexing. The resolution will place the question on the 2013 fall election ballot for voters to decide.

The Senate's action today puts New Jersey a step closer to joining 10 other states that have established automatic annual adjustments to the minimum wage based on the rising cost of living. Of those states, 4 have established the program through constitutional amendment.

Having a strong state minimum wage will help low-wage workers get ahead as well as provide the state with a significant economic stimulus. A modest increase in New Jersey's minimum wage to \$8.25 an hour will put money back into New Jersey's economy, generating approximately \$195 million in additional economic activity and leading to the creation of over 1,700 full-time jobs. It is estimated that close to half a million New Jersey workers and over 230,000 children would benefit from a dollar wage increase.¹ Indexing the wage to inflation would maintain these benefits over time.

We thank Senate President Steve Sweeney for his leadership in moving resolution SCR1 forward to allow voters to have a say in the creation of a livable New Jersey wage floor. With Governor Christie conditional veto last week of A2162, SCR1 is the best way forward to help guarantee that low-income working families in New Jersey have a consistent wage standard that keeps up with the ever-increasing expenses for food, housing, utilities and transportation. The NJ Time to Care Coalition and its 80 plus members and allies applaud the Senate President's unwavering position on raising the minimum wage and tying future increases to inflation.

We would also like to thank all the NJ State Senators who stood firmly behind New Jersey's working families and voted Yes to raise the minimum wage! Raising the minimum wage will help New Jersey's hard working families just when they need it the most; and it will help move the state's economy forward.

¹The Economic Policy Institute (EPI) Analysis of 2011 Current Population Survey, Outgoing Rotation Group, October 2012.

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 balance their responsibilities at home and on the job.