



## **The Time to Care Coalition and its Allies Commend the New Jersey State Assembly for Passing SCR1, Minimum Wage Increase to \$8.25 with Annual Adjustments based on Inflation.**

Today, December 17, 2012, the New Jersey State Assembly voted YES on resolution SCR1. The resolution creates a ballot measure to amend the constitution to raise the New Jersey minimum wage to \$8.25 and make future annual adjustments based on CPI increases. The Assembly's vote (46-29) will put the decision to raise the minimum wage and tie future increases to inflation in voter's hands. The Governor has not yet taken action on the statutory minimum wage bill, A2162 (S3), and by passing SCR1 the Assembly is ensuring that New Jersey will have a viable alternative for a strong minimum wage standard. Both A2162 and SCR1 will help low-wage workers get ahead as well as provide the state with a significant economic stimulus. Research has shown that an increase of just \$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.

Speaker Oliver has been a constant champion for raising the minimum wage in New Jersey and we laud her leadership in this fight. The Speaker and her colleagues understand that families making a minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour currently do not earn enough to spend basic needs, and as a result the New Jersey economy suffers. Giving working families added spending power will help them adequately support themselves and allow them to become more active consumers in New Jersey's economy, creating a well-needed stimulus. By including annual adjustments based on the cost of living, SCR1 will create a consistent wage standard to keep up with the ever-increasing expenses for food, housing, utilities and transportation.

By passing SCR1, the Assembly joins the Senate in setting the stage to advance efforts in establishing a strong minimum wage in New Jersey that will help low-wage workers get ahead as well as provide the state with a significant economic stimulus. 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 balance their responsibilities at home and on the job.*