

Urge Your Senators to Raise the Minimum Wage - No Worker Should Live in Poverty

[Take Action!](#)



This week, the Senate will vote on increasing the minimum wage. **Consider taking action today, as your Senators need to hear from you that no working person should earn a poverty-wage.** In their pastoral letter "Economic Justice for All," the US Conference of Catholic Bishops has clarified that a wage "should guarantee man the opportunity to provide a dignified livelihood for himself and his family on the material, social, cultural, and spiritual level."

Unfortunately, the current minimum wage does not currently meet these expectations. Over the last forty years, the real value of the minimum wage has declined by more than 30%, leaving workers with less money to provide for housing, food, education, and healthcare.

A mother of two working a minimum wage job today earns \$15,080 per year, a full \$4,450 - below the federal poverty line for a family of three. Because of this, countless families are forced to rely on government programs to make ends meet. If the minimum wage kept pace with inflation it would be more than \$10.55 per hour today, greatly reducing the need for taxpayers to subsidize low-wage work through government assistance programs.

If enacted into law, this legislation would raise the federal minimum wage from the current \$7.25 per hour to \$10.10 per hour in a series of three \$.95 increases over three years. Additionally, this legislation would raise the tipped minimum wage, currently an abysmal \$2.13 per hour, to 70% of the federal minimum wage. Finally, the minimum wage would be increased annually according to the Consumer Price Index, ensuring workers' earnings rise as the cost of living increases.

Please let your Senators know that it's time for a reasonable raise in the minimum wage.