



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

1620 EYE STREET, NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
TELEPHONE (202) 293-7330
FAX (202) 293-2352
URL: www.usmayors.org

September 10, 2014

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education,
Labor & Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Kline
Chairman
Committee on Education & the Workforce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education,
Labor & Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable George Miller
Ranking Member
Committee on Education & the Workforce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Harkin, Ranking Member Alexander, Chairman Kline, and Ranking Member Miller:

As mayors from employment hubs across the country, we strongly urge Congress to act to raise the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour. We support the passage of the *Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2013* (S. 460/H.R. 1010), which would increase earnings for nearly 28 million workers across the country and help address the growing inequality gap that is leaving our middle and working class families behind.

Rising inequality and declining opportunity are threats to our fundamental values and to the nation's economic growth. Too many Americans, no matter how hard they work or try to find work, have stagnant or low incomes, dwindling wealth and trouble affording life's basic necessities, like housing, food, and health care. Mayors from around the nation are responding to this challenge and taking action. At the U.S. Conference of Mayors Cities of Opportunity Task Force inaugural summit in New York City last month, 35 mayors committed to work together to respond to this crisis – to leverage the power of municipal governments to advance local strategies to address income inequality, among other priorities. However, federal support is critical to address this urgent national crisis.

Families should not be relegated to the ranks of the poor when putting in a full week's work, and parents working full-time should not be forced to raise their children in poverty. Parents must work more than three full-time minimum-wage jobs to keep a family of four above the poverty line. A \$10.10 minimum wage would have pushed more than half – 58 percent – of the nation's working poor out of poverty in 2011, according to a study by the Restaurant Opportunities Centers United.

This is particularly important in the context of our nation's economic recovery. Extensive job losses in high-wage sectors are being replaced by jobs in low-wage, or minimum-wage, sectors. The fastest growing U.S. employment sectors are also the sectors with the highest percentage of hourly paid minimum wage workers, according to a recent IHS Global Insight report. Raising the minimum wage is especially critical for women and minorities, who are more likely to be minimum wage earners.

We urge Congress to act to increase the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour. We look forward to working together to improve the lives of Americans and ensure they receive fair pay for an honest day's work.

Sincerely,

Kevin Johnson
Mayor of Sacramento
President

Bill de Blasio
Mayor of New York City
Chair,
Cities of Opportunity
Task Force

Martin J. Walsh
Mayor of Boston
Vice Chair,
Cities of Opportunity
Task Force

Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director

As of October 6 (List Not Final)

1. William Bell, Mayor of Durham, NC
2. Stephen Benjamin, Mayor of Columbia, SC
3. Christopher Cabaldon, Mayor of West Sacramento, CA
4. Robert Cluck, Mayor of Arlington, TX
5. Michael B. Coleman, Mayor of Columbus, OH
6. Joseph A. Curtatone, Mayor of Somerville, MA
7. Ernest Davis, Mayor of Mount Vernon, NY
8. Bridget Donnell Newton, Mayor of Rockville, MD
9. Johnny DuPree, Mayor of Hattiesburg, MS
10. William Euille, Mayor of Alexandria, VA
11. Bill Finch, Mayor of Bridgeport, CT
12. Karen Freeman Wilson, Mayor of Gary, IN
13. Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles, CA
14. Robert Garcia, Mayor of Long Beach, CA
15. Javier Gonzales, Mayor of Santa Fe, NM
16. Carolyn Goodman, Mayor of Las Vegas, NV
17. Vincent C. Gray, Mayor of Washington, DC
18. Charlie Hales, Mayor of Portland, OR

19. Toni Harp, Mayor of New Haven, CT
20. Sylvester James, Mayor of Kansas City, MO
21. Lioneld Jordan, Mayor of Fayetteville, AR
22. Chris Koos, Mayor of Normal, IL
23. Mitch Landrieu, Mayor of New Orleans, LA
24. Ed Lee, Mayor of San Francisco, CA
25. Adrian Mapp, Mayor of Plainfield, NJ
26. John Marchione, Mayor of Redmond, WA
27. John Marks, Mayor of Tallahassee, FL
28. Gary McCarthy, Mayor of Schenectady, NY
29. Stephanie Miner, Mayor of Syracuse, NY
30. Edward Murray, Mayor of Seattle, WA
31. Michael Nutter, Mayor of Philadelphia, PA
32. Frank Ortis, Mayor of Pembroke Pines, FL
33. Annise Parker, Mayor of Houston, TX
34. William Peduto, Mayor of Pittsburgh, PA
35. Kitty Piercy, Mayor of Eugene, OR
36. Don Plusquellic, Mayor of Akron, OH
37. Mike Rawlings, Mayor of Dallas, TX
38. Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Mayor of Baltimore, MD
39. Kasim Reed, Mayor of Atlanta, GA
40. Joseph P. Riley, Jr., Mayor of Charleston, SC
41. Deborah Robertson, Mayor of Rialto, CA
42. Jesus Ruiz, Mayor of Socorro, TX
43. Raul Salinas, Mayor of Laredo, TX
44. Pedro Segarra, Mayor of Hartford, CT
45. Kathy Sheehan, Mayor of Albany, NY
46. Jeffrey Slavin, Mayor of Somerset, MD
47. Francis G. Slay, Mayor of St. Louis, MO
48. Paul Soglin, Mayor of Madison, WI
49. Mike Spano, Mayor of Yonkers, NY
50. Greg Stanton, Mayor of Phoenix, AZ
51. Mark Stodola, Mayor of Little Rock, AR
52. Marilyn Strickland, Mayor of Tacoma, WA
53. Angel Taveras, Mayor of Providence, RI
54. Elizabeth Tisdahl, Mayor of Evanston, IL
55. Zachary Vruwink, Mayor of Wisconsin Rapids, WI
56. Brian Wahler, Mayor of Piscataway, NJ
57. Dayne Walling, Mayor of Flint, MI
58. Setti Warren, Mayor of Newton, MA
59. Lovely Warren, Mayor of Rochester, NY
60. Shelley Welsch, Mayor of University City, MO
61. Nan Whaley, Mayor of Dayton, OH