



Minimum Wage Caucus Resolution

WHEREAS: In the richest nation on earth, it is simply wrong for anyone who works full time to live in poverty;

WHEREAS: The faces of the working poor are mothers and fathers struggling to feed, shelter, clothe and educate their children. They're proud parents who are doing their best, but still aren't getting by, even with multiple jobs. They can't put healthy food on the table and they can't afford to live in a safe neighborhood. That's because their work isn't recognized with a decent paycheck;

WHEREAS: In Minnesota, 357,000 low-wage workers deserve a raise. They help us raise our children, care for our aging parents, clean our offices, serve our food, and more. Low-wage workers help everybody else do their jobs, yet they don't share the prosperity they help create. Their professions have been undervalued for far too long and it's time to make their hard work pay;

WHEREAS: Minnesota's minimum wage now stands at \$6.15 an hour – we're one of only four states with a wage less than the \$7.25 federal minimum;

WHEREAS: Full-time wages for someone earning \$7.25 an hour come to only \$15,080 a year and that's not enough to meet basic needs;

WHEREAS: In a Minnesota family with two full-time working adults and two children, each parent needs to earn \$14 an hour just to meet basic needs;

WHEREAS: Raising the minimum wage to \$9.50 an hour would pump more than \$470 million in consumer-spending power to fuel Minnesota's economy;

WHEREAS: Although raising the minimum wage remains popular – with support consistently polling above 70 percent – strong public support has not translated into action by the Minnesota Senate. The state House already voted to raise the state's minimum wage to \$9.50 and Gov. Dayton is on record supporting it;

RESOLVED: We support legislation that will raise the minimum wage to \$9.50 by 2015, index it to inflation, match federal laws on family leave and the 40-hour workweek, and ensure that tipped workers aren't paid less than minimum wage.