

RAISE *the* WAGE

FACT SHEET

The Raise the Wage Act of 2019

Increasing the minimum wage to \$15 by 2024 will give roughly 40 million Americans a raise

For millions of people across the country, working 40 hours or more a week is not enough to support themselves and their families. In fact, [one in nine](#) U.S. workers are paid wages that leave them in poverty, even when working full-time and year-round.

For the past 40 years, Congress has failed to increase the minimum wage to keep up with inflation. Today's minimum wage worker has less buying power than a minimum wage worker had in the 1960s. Since the last increase in 2009, the purchasing power of the minimum wage has declined by more than 15 percent due to inflation. There is no place in America where a full-time worker making the minimum wage can afford the basic essentials.

The Raise the Wage Act of 2019 would:

- Gradually raise the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$15 over the next six years to lift millions of workers out of poverty, stimulate local economies, and restore the value of minimum wage;
- Index future increases in the federal minimum wage to median wage growth to ensure the value of minimum wage does not once again erode over time;
- Guarantees tipped workers are paid at least the full federal minimum wage by repealing the subminimum wage for tipped workers, which will ensure consistent, livable pay;
- Guarantees teen workers are paid at least the full federal minimum wage by repealing the rarely used subminimum wage for youth workers; and
- End subminimum wage certificates for individuals with disabilities to provide opportunities for individuals with disabilities to be competitively employed, taxpaying citizens and participate more fully in their communities.

Give 40 million Americans a raise. According to 2017 estimates from the Economic Policy Institute, raising the minimum wage to \$15 would increase wages for [roughly 40 million people](#)—nearly 30 percent of the workforce. Once fully phased in, this roughly translates into an annual pay increase of about \$3,500 for the average affected worker.

Helps women and workers of color. Today, [more than 40 percent of Black workers and one third of Hispanic workers](#) would get a raise under this bill. Women make up nearly [two-thirds of all minimum wage workers](#). This bill would provide the greatest benefit to workers of color and women.

Boosts the economy. Economists agree that low-wage workers are more likely than other income groups to spend extra earnings immediately. Researchers estimate that a 10 percent increase in the minimum wage would increase sales by around [\\$2 billion each year](#). This new demand helps create an economy that works for everyone, not just the wealthy few.