items from Mr. Armstrong’s life and career. The museum’s yearlong celebration of the Apollo II anniversary culminates this weekend in a series of events, ranging from meet-and-greets with active and retired astronauts to the Run to the Moon 5k and 10k races, special exhibits in the museum, and the grand finale concert.

Mr. Speaker, Neil Armstrong died in 2012 at the age of 82, but the impact of his journey is still felt today in rural Auglaize County, Ohio, and throughout the world.

I am pleased to join the people of Wapakoneta in celebrating the man who took a small step but left a giant legacy.

END SURPRISE MEDICAL BILLS

(Mr. RUIZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate an important milestone in the fight to protect patients from unfair and expensive surprise medical bills.

For too many middle-class families, receiving an unexpected and very expensive bill from an out-of-network provider is devastating and can lead to severe anxiety, depression, and financial ruin.

That is why, yesterday, the House Energy and Commerce Committee passed H.R. 3630, the No Surprises Act, a bill that will protect millions of hardworking Americans from receiving a surprise medical bill through no fault of their own.

I am fighting to end surprise medical bills once and for all. The No Surprises Act includes my bipartisan amendment to create an independent arbitration process that keeps patients out of the middle and off the hook for surprise medical bills.

As an emergency medicine physician, my life’s work has been about putting patients first, and I am still fighting to put their health above all else.

I thank Chairman PALLONE for leading an open, inclusive, and collaborative process that has brought us one step closer to a bipartisan solution that protects patients and ends surprise medical bills.

WORK ON KITCHEN-TABLE ISSUES

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, in Matthew in the New Testament, it talks about: “You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit.”

Mr. Speaker, the tree of the House of Representatives hasn’t borne much fruit this week. At a time of hurricane and floods, the continued border crisis exacerbated by inaction on properly defining “asylum” or “legal immigration,” instead of the kitchen-table issues families sent us to work on, we get impeachment questions that, for all the hype, barely mustered one-fifth of the House to table that discussion. Next week is another round of Robert Mueller, after 2 years and tens of millions of dollars of drilling a dry well.

Mr. Speaker, for those who watch this House, our constituents, to actually feel embarrased by its governing, even causing our Speaker pro tempore to abandon the Chair—out of privilege, I believe—over this infighting, we have some serious self-contemplation and soul-searching to do as a body to uphold the dignity of this institution, not just change the rules to support the inappropriate language of its leaders of this House or attack our close ally Israel with a BDS resolution.

Mr. Speaker, we will be recognized by the fruits we produce in this body.

RAISE THE WAGE ACT

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 492, I call up the bill (H.R. 582) to provide for increases in the Federal minimum wage, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Speaker pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 492, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Labor, printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part A of House Report 116-155, is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 582

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the “Raise the Wage Act”.

SEC. 2. MINIMUM WAGE INCREASES.

(a) In General.—Section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) except as otherwise provided in this section, not less than—

(A) $8.80 an hour, beginning on the effective date under section 7 of the Raise the Wage Act; and

(B) $9.50 an hour, beginning 1 year after such effective date; and

(C) $10.00 an hour, beginning 2 years after such effective date; and

(D) $11.70 an hour, beginning 3 years after such effective date; and

(E) $12.40 an hour, beginning 4 years after such effective date; and

(F) $13.50 an hour, beginning 5 years after such effective date; and

(G) $15.00 an hour, beginning 6 years after such effective date; and

(H) beginning on the date that is 7 years after such effective date, and annually thereafter, the amount determined by the Secretary under subsection (a)(1)(H), increased by the lesser of—

(i) the cash wage paid such employee, which for purposes of such determination shall be not less than—

(I) the amount necessary for the wage in effect under section 6(a)(1) for such period, rounded up to the nearest multiple of $0.05; and

(II) for each succeeding 1-year period after the increase made pursuant to subsection (I), the minimum wage in effect under section 6(a)(1); and

(II) for each succeeding 1-year period until the hourly wage under this clause equals the wage in effect under section 6(a)(1) for such period, rounded up to the nearest multiple of $0.05; and

(III) for each succeeding 1-year period after the increase made pursuant to subsection (II), the minimum wage in effect under section 6(a)(1); and

(b) Determination Based on Increase in the Median Hourly Wage of All Employees.—Section 6 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(A) Not less than the amount in effect under subsection (a)(1) on the date of such determination;

“(B) increased from such amount by the annual percentage increase, if any, in the median hourly wage of all employees determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics; and

“(C) rounded up to the nearest multiple of $0.05.”

(b) Determination Based on Increase in the Median Hourly Wage of All Employees for purposes of paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary, through the Bureau of Labor Statistics, shall compile data on the hourly wages of all employees to determine such a median hourly wage for comparison such median hourly wage for the most recent year for which data are available with the median hourly wage determined for the preceding year.”.

SEC. 3. TIPPED EMPLOYEES.

(a) Basic Minimum Wage for Tipped Employees.—Section 3(m)(2)(A)(i) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203(m)(2)(A)(i)) is amended to read as follows:

“(i) the cash wage paid such employee, which for purposes of such determination shall be not less than—

(1) for the 1-year period beginning on the effective date under section 7 of the Raise the Wage Act, $3.00 an hour; and

(2) for each succeeding 1-year period until the hourly wage under this clause equals the wage in effect under section 6(a)(1) for such period, rounded up to the nearest multiple of $0.05; and

(III) for each succeeding 1-year period after the increase made pursuant to subsection (II), the minimum wage in effect under section 6(a)(1); and

(b) Tips Retained by Employees.—Section 3(m)(2)(A) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203(m)(2)(A)) is amended—

(1) by adding at the end the following clause (ii), by striking “of this subsection, and all tips received by such employee have been retained by the employee” and inserting “of this subsection. Any employee shall have the right to retain any tips received by such employee”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following: “An employer shall inform each employee of the right and exception provided under the preceding sentence.”

(c) Scheduled Repeal of Separate Minimum Wages for Tipped Employees.—

(1) Tipped Employees.—Section 3(m)(2)(A) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203(m)(2)(A)), as amended by subsections (a) and (b), is further amended by striking the sentence beginning with “In determining the wage an employer is required to pay a tipped employee,” and all that follows through “of this subsection,” and inserting “The wage required to be paid to a tipped employee shall be the wage set forth in section 6(a)(1).”.

(2) Publication of Notice.—Subsection (i) of section 5 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 205), as amended by section 5, is further amended by striking “or in accordance
with subclause (II) or (III) of section 3(m)(2)(A)(i)”. 

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraphs (1) and (2) shall take effect on the date that is 1 year after the date on which the hourly wage under subclause (II) of section 3(m)(2)(A)(i) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(m)(2)(A)(i)), as amended by subsection (a), takes effect.

SEC. 4. NEWLY HIRED EMPLOYEES WHO ARE LESS THAN 20 YEARS OLD.

(a) BASE MINIMUM WAGE FOR NEWLY HIRED EMPLOYEES WHO ARE LESS THAN 20 YEARS OLD.—Section 6(g)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(g)(1)) is amended by striking “a wage which is not less than $4.25 an hour” and inserting the following: “a wage at a rate that is not less than—

“(A) for the 1-year period beginning on the effective date under section 7 of the Raise the Wage Act, an hourly wage equal to the amount determined under this paragraph for the preceding year, increased by the lesser of—


(1) $0.25; or

(ii) the amount necessary for the wage in effect under section 6(a)(4) for such period, rounded to the nearest multiple of 10 cents; and

“(C) for each succeeding 1-year period after the increase made pursuant to subparagraph (B)(ii), the minimum wage in effect under section 6(a)(1), as amended by this Act,

(b) SCHEDULED REPEAL OF SEPARATE MINIMUM WAGE FOR NEWLY HIRED EMPLOYEES WHO ARE LESS THAN 20 YEARS OLD.—Section 6(g)(2) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(g)(2)), as amended by subsection (a), shall be repealed.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The repeal and amendment made by paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively, shall take effect on the date that is 1 year after the date on which the hourly wage under subclause (II) of section 6(g)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(g)(1)), as amended by subsection (a), takes effect.

SEC. 5. PUBLICATION OF NOTICE.

Section 6 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206), as amended by the preceding sections, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(B) technical assistance and information to employers issued a special certificate under this subsection for the purposes of—

(i) transitioning the practices of such employers to comply with this subsection, as amended by the Raise the Wage Act; and

(ii) ensuring continuing employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities receiving a special minimum wage rate under this subsection; and

“(B) information to individuals employed at a special minimum wage rate under this subsection, which may include referrals to Federal or State entities with expertise in competitive integrated employment.”.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) PUBLICATION OF NOTICE.—(1) AMENDMENT.—Subsection (i) of section 6 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206), as amended by section 4(b)(2), is further amended by striking “or section 14(c)(1)(A)”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date on which the wage described in paragraph (1)(A)(i) of section 14(c)(1)(A) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 214(c)(1)(A)), as amended by subsection (a)(1), takes effect.

SEC. 6. PROMOTING ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

(a) WAGES.—(1) TRANSITION TO FAIR WAGES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.—Subparagraph (A) of section 14(c)(1)(A) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 214(c)(1)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

“(A) at a rate that equals, or exceeds, for each year, the greater of—

(i) $5.85 an hour, beginning 1 year after the date the wage rate specified in section 6(a)(1)(A) takes effect; and

(ii) $6.40 an hour, beginning 2 years after such date;

“(B) by the amount necessary for the wage in effect under section 6(a)(4) for such period, rounded to the nearest multiple of 10 cents; and

“(C) for each succeeding 1-year period after the increase made pursuant to subparagraph (B)(ii), the minimum wage in effect under section 6(a)(1), as amended by this Act;

(b) SEC. 8. GAO REPORT.

Except as otherwise provided in this Act or the amendments made by this Act, this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question.

The Raise the Wage Act is not just good for workers. It is good for the economy.
While the Republican tax bill gave the largest benefits to corporations and the wealthy, this bill puts money directly into the hands of workers, who will spend that money in their communities.

"Today is a historic day. For the first time in more than 12 years, the House is voting to restore the value of the Federal minimum wage and restore the value of work in America."

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to support the Raise the Wage Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in complete opposition to H.R. 582, a radical, risky, and unprecedented bill that puts party politics above the best interests of American workers and their families.

Increasing the Federal minimum wage by 107 percent is a harmful and unprecedented mandate that would result in millions of job losses for vulnerable Americans, small business closures, and significant damage to the U.S. economy.

A detailed study issued this month by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, CBO, estimates a $15 minimum wage would cause up to 3.7 million job losses—3.7 million jobs. One job lost is too many; 3.7 million jobs lost is unconscionable.

Those hurt the most by this bill would be female workers, young workers, and individuals with less than a high school diploma.

In our committee earlier this year, we heard testimony from Ms. Simone Barron, a restaurant worker from Seattle, Washington, where the minimum wage has already been raised to $15 per hour. Simone said that, after the city of Seattle raised the minimum wage, her employer moved her from standard a tip line to a service charge model, which resulted in her taking home less pay.

Small businesses will also suffer if this far-left policy is implemented. Without the cash reserves or profit margins to absorb the increase in labor costs, small businesses will have a choice of several bad options. Among their choices are laying off workers, raising prices on their customers, replacing workers with robots, or going out of business.

The National Federation of Independent Business estimates that businesses with fewer than 500 employees will account for 57 percent of job losses, and businesses with fewer than 100 employees will account for 43 percent of job losses.

Still, many Democratic colleagues are trying to sell this radical wage hike by claiming it will redistribute wealth and provide poor Americans with a "living wage." Yet, the CBO predicts that, by 2025, there would be a $9 billion family income resulting from a $15 minimum wage. This so-called raise would reduce pay for many American families.

Let's not forget, the U.S. economy is booming, and lesser-skilled workers are benefiting. Earlier this month, The Wall Street Journal reported that "wages are rising at the fastest rate in a decade for lower-skilled workers, and unemployment among less-educated Americans and minorities is near a record low."

We know from the latest jobs report that progrowth policies like the Republican Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and eliminating unnecessary regulations are raising wages, adding jobs, and reducing unemployment.

With 7.3 million unfilled jobs nationwide, job creators know they must offer competitive wages and benefits to attract and retain workers, so it is bewildering that Democrats refuse to acknowledge or celebrate the victories of our present economy and continue to call for socialist policies. Instead, they want to pass this ill-advised legislation, which would wreak havoc on the economic progress we have achieved over the last few years.

The cost of living in New York City is much higher than the cost of living in my hometown in North Carolina. With such disparities in the cost of living across the country, making a one-size-fits-all wage hike will cause job losses and harm entry-level workers in many regions around the country.

Even President Obama's former chairman of economic advisers, Alan Krueger, argued in October 2015 that raising the minimum wage to $15 would "put us in uncharted waters and risk undesirable and unintended consequences."

H.R. 582 is deeply irresponsible. Workers, families, small businesses, and the U.S. economy will suffer as a direct result of this drastic mandate.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I remind my colleagues that a vote against this bill is a vote to deny about 37 percent of workers in her district of North Carolina a raise of about $3,800 a year.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI), the chair of the Education and Labor Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman Scott for his leadership, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairwoman from North Carolina for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly rise in favor of upward mobility for greater opportunity. But this bill doesn't do that. I rise in opposition to this underlying bill.

Mr. Speaker, increasing the Federal minimum wage by 107 percent is an extreme and unprecedented policy that will have a severe economic impact on many American families, our Nation's workforce, our economy, and once again, most importantly, hard-working American families.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, if enacted, this legislation would cause approximately 3.7 million workers—let's extrapolate that to families—across this Nation to lose their jobs by 2025.

My home State of Pennsylvania has estimated that more than 120,000 individuals, thereby families, would be negatively impacted through the loss of their jobs. That is not upward impact on many American families, our Nation's workforce, our economy, and once again, most importantly, hard-working American families.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, if enacted, this legislation would cause approximately 3.7 million workers—let's extrapolate that to families—across this Nation to lose their jobs by 2025.

Today, we can support working families by passing the Raise the Wage Act. This bill will gradually raise the minimum wage to $15 an hour by 2025 and make sure that tipped workers, youth, and individuals with disabilities are paid a full, not a subminimum, wage.

We can learn from the Economic Policy Institute found that raising the Federal minimum wage to $15 an hour would benefit close to 27,000 workers just in northwest Oregon alone.

The Raise the Wage Act is good for workers and good for the economy.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman Scott for his leadership, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, if enacted, this legislation would cause approximately 3.7 million workers—let's extrapolate that to families—across this Nation to lose their jobs by 2025.

Mr. Speaker, I have always been a proponent of Federal policies that aim to lift individuals out of poverty and provide them with skills necessary to gain good-paying, family-sustaining jobs. We have done that in this body, and it is working.

We should be promoting bipartisan policies that are proven to enhance workforce development. For example, last Congress we passed the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, restoring rungs on a ladder of opportunity.

The President has signed that bill into law, and we are working diligently
28 percent are working parents with children, and half have family incomes of less than $40,000 per year. Women make up nearly 58 percent of the workers who would benefit from a $15 minimum wage. Women of color would be especially instrumental in helping to close the gender-wage-gap. Raising the minimum wage to $15 would also significantly benefit workers of color. More than half of American workers and 33 percent of Latinos seeing a pay increase once this law goes into effect. These are the people who make America run—yet due to the erosion of the real value of the minimum wage over the last half century, they are struggling even as our economy enjoys a solid recovery.

I urge all my colleagues to vote in support of the Raise the Wage Act. This bill will give 27 million workers a raise and lift 1.3 million people out of poverty. Helping low-income workers is long overdue.

Contrary to what my Republican colleagues have been saying, raising the minimum wage is popular among American workers. That is why voters in States like California, Arkansas, Arizona, and Missouri have voted to increase their state minimum wages. Congress has the opportunity to restore the value of work, lift families out of poverty, and ensure a fair wage for workers everywhere in America.
The Congressional Budget Office estimates that if this minimum wage law were enacted, up to 3.7 million jobs in America would vanish. And what areas would lose the most? Obviously, the areas with the most minimum wage jobs, rural areas.

You see, these areas have a much lower cost of living. You can rent an apartment for $500 per month, instead of $3,000 per month in San Francisco, where NANCY PELOSI is from. Food costs are lower, taxes are lower, utilities are lower. An American family can have a comfortable living on half what it takes in San Francisco, Seattle, or New York.

One size does not fit all. A $15 minimum wage would cost these poor rural counties thousands of jobs. Even Blue State Oregon recognized this fact when it adopted a tiered minimum wage with one rate for urban areas, another for suburban, and another for rural.

I represent three poor South Carolina counties—Saluda, Union, and Marlboro. These are majority African American and suffered stagnation over a lost decade following the financial crisis and the stifling government overreach of the Obama administration.

After tax and regulatory reform, these poor counties are finally recovering. Two years ago, when DONALD TRUMP took office, the unemployment rate in Marion County was 9.6 percent. Today it is 4.6 percent. What a turnaround.

And yet, even in the face of this, Democrats haven’t learned their lesson and want to return to the days of big government, big regulation overreach that will hurt these poor rural counties the worst.

Everyone is concerned about income inequality. Here is a suggestion, to stop complaining and actually do something about it. Let’s work together to fix our broken immigration system.

Hundreds of thousands of illegal aliens cross our southern border every year. This limitless supply of cheap labor steals from our children and holds down wages for the hardworking, law-abiding Americans. The most affected are the most vulnerable at the bottom of the income ladder, and particularly those in rural areas.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

My members see the stagnant wages and economic anxiety that most American families face. As women move up the income ladder, they pay better wages and their businesses attract more stable, productive employees. That’s not surprising since better wages enable workers to concentrate on their job without continually worrying about how they will put gas in their cars, pay for day care or keep up with their rent.

At small businesses, the owners and employees work side by side. We talk together to offer the best goods and services to our customers. My members know they cannot generally compete with big box stores or fast-food restaurants on price. Instead, their competitive advantage is higher quality service and a real connection to the community and its residents.

The reality is that my members and other Main Street businesses have a lot in common with low-wage workers: both are being squeezed by big corporations. The low wages that big retailers and restaurant chains pay undermine them. It is vitally important to understand that the number one problem I hear from my members is that consumer demand is still weak. Raising the minimum wage helps small businesses, women workers and the broader economy. Raising the minimum wage reinforces their business strategies, while an inadequate minimum wage undermines them.

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The migration of women from the workforce into business ownership has been one of the great economic achievements of the American dream. As women move from employees to business owners, we have brought a new perspective to America’s business leadership. Women own about 40 percent of all privately held firms in the United States and are exercising the decision-making authority that comes with that role to effect positive changes in the workplace.

My member business owners realize that most of the people working for low pay across the country—the waitresses, the cashiers—are women. Many of my members were once employees themselves. They know that raising the minimum wage helps working women and families in their struggle to make ends meet. Our members know that a minimum wage of $7.25 an hour is much too low.

As a matter of fact, large national chains that pay low wages may actually be competing unfairly with women-owned small businesses that work hard to assure that their employees get by. In short, keeping the minimum wage low keeps women and families down.

For these reasons and more, the U.S. Women’s Chamber of Commerce supports raising the federal minimum wage to $15 per hour by 2024 and then indexing it to median hourly wages so that it doesn’t erode again. And we also support giving the minimum wage for tipped workers until it equals the regular minimum wage as called for in the Raise the Wage Act.

Small businesses show that paying higher wages is economically realistic.

There are two roads to profitability: the high road and the low road. Businesses can invest in their workforces with decent wages and benefits, and enjoy the benefits of a dedicated workforce with lower turnover, higher productivity and better customer service. Or businesses can pay poverty wages through employees. These businesses may save on immediate payroll, but they experience the significant expense of higher turnover, constant recruiting, higher absenteeism, and a less experienced, less productive workforce.

Only one road to profitability delivers us a strong floor under our growing middle class, upward mobility and the promise of the American Dream. The business owners supported by the U.S. Women’s Chamber of Commerce will continue to work together to offer the best goods and services to our customers. My members know they cannot generally compete with big box stores or fast-food restaurants on price. Instead, their competitive advantage is higher quality service and a real connection to the community and its residents.

The reality is that my members and other Main Street businesses have a lot in common with low-wage workers: both are being squeezed by big corporations. The low wages that big retailers and restaurant chains pay undermine them. It is vitally important to understand that the number one problem I hear from my members is that consumer demand is still weak. Raising the minimum wage helps small businesses, women workers and the broader economy. Raising the minimum wage reinforces their business strategies, while an inadequate minimum wage undermines them.

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RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE HELPS WORKING WOMEN

Finally, as a representative of women-owned businesses, I want to emphasize that working women represent the greatest percentage of women to benefit from increasing the minimum wage. The typical low-wage worker is an adult woman. Think of your waitress at Applebees, or the cashier who rings you up at the supermarket. Think of the childcare center worker who takes care of your son or daughter, or the health aide who helps your mother or grandfather. Many of the women business owners who belong to the U.S. Women’s Chamber of Commerce left the workforce to start their own businesses because they felt that the jobs where women worked were not being fairly paid. In building their own companies and becoming employers, they have created working environments where they try to do better by paying and treating fairly. That’s why women-owned businesses tend to pay above minimum wage. Women business owners understand and value security for families.

In sum, a $15 minimum wage by 2024 would offer all of the benefits that I have outlined: it will offer small businesses like my members by putting more money in the pockets of workers, which will boost spending and job creation on Main Street; it will help level the playing field for small, mainstreet and big businesses; and it will bring fairer job creation on Main Street; it will help small businesses like my members better than we do here in Washington, D.C.

It is for these reasons that the U.S. Women’s Chamber of Commerce supports the Raise the Wage Act of 2019.

Thank you.

MARGOT DORFMAN,
Chief Executive Officer, U.S. Women’s Chamber of Commerce™

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is amoral that millions of people in this country are forced to work so hard for so little in return.

Believe me, Congress knows, because there is a serious bipartisan movement afoot in Congress to gradually increase the minimum wage, at a rate of $1.25 an hour over the next decade, so that by 2024 we can afford to pay the lowest-paid workers $15 an hour. The higher minimum wage is economic sense and good for both.

This is why the House passed the Raise the Wage Act, which is nothing more than another baseless, irrational attack on President Trump’s successful economic record.

Just this week, House Democrats voted to condemn the President, hold his advisers in contempt, and many of his loyal House members to vote to impeach the President. Today, they are working to undo the economic gains seen under the Trump administration’s leadership and undermine the best economy in my lifetime.

This legislation will arbitrarily double the Federal minimum wage to $15 an hour, despite plenty of evidence that employers are fairly compensating employees. This bill will hurt the very low-income people House Democrats claim they want to help by reducing employment opportunity and hours.

In fact, the CBO estimated that this legislation will cost the American economy up to 3.7 million jobs and reduce real wages by $3.5 billion.

I offer an amendment to prevent this bill from taking effect unless the GAO could show this legislation would eliminate fewer than 200,000 jobs in rural America, where I live, but House Democrats wouldn’t even allow a debate.

Just in Tennessee, this bill is predicted to eliminate more than 66,000 jobs, roughly the size of my hometown, which is the largest city in my district.

In 2016, Seattle’s minimum wage increased to $13 an hour, $2 shy of what the House Democrats are proposing today, and it has already reduced hours for low-income jobs. If legislation like this is hurting large areas like Seattle, it will have even a worse impact on rural America.

I think my colleague across the aisle said the States had raised this. I think that is a perfect thing, the States ought to. They know their local economies better than we do here in Washington, D.C.

I urge my Democratic colleagues to work with Republicans to implement policies to give every American the tools to seek higher-paying jobs and, once again, encourage my colleagues to vote against H.R. 582.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I remind my colleague that his vote against this bill is a vote to deny about 28.1 million workers by 2024.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to vote against H.R. 582, the so-called Raise the Wage Act, which is nothing more than another baseless, irrational attack on President Trump’s successful economic record.

Just this week, House Democrats voted to condemn the President, hold his advisers in contempt, and many of his loyal House members to vote to impeach the President. Today, they are working to undo the economic gains seen under the Trump administration’s leadership and undermine the best economy in my lifetime.

This legislation will arbitrarily double the Federal minimum wage to $15 an hour, despite plenty of evidence that employers are fairly compensating employees. This bill will hurt the very low-income people House Democrats claim they want to help by reducing employment opportunity and hours.

In fact, the CBO estimated that this legislation will cost the American economy up to 3.7 million jobs and reduce real wages by $3.5 billion.

I offer an amendment to prevent this bill from taking effect unless the GAO could show this legislation would eliminate fewer than 200,000 jobs in rural America, where I live, but House Democrats wouldn’t even allow a debate.

Just in Tennessee, this bill is predicted to eliminate more than 66,000 jobs, roughly the size of my hometown, which is the largest city in my district.

In 2016, Seattle’s minimum wage increased to $13 an hour, $2 shy of what the House Democrats are proposing today, and it has already reduced hours for low-income jobs. If legislation like this is hurting large areas like Seattle, it will have even a worse impact on rural America.

I think my colleague across the aisle said the States had raised this. I think that is a perfect thing, the States ought to. They know their local economies better than we do here in Washington, D.C.

I urge my Democratic colleagues to work with Republicans to implement policies to give every American the tools to seek higher-paying jobs and, once again, encourage my colleagues to vote against H.R. 582.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS), the chair of the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in strong support of H.R. 582, the Raise the Wage Act.

I have been fighting for working families for 3 decades now, from the State House in North Carolina, to here in the U.S. House. I led the successful effort in my State Senate to raise the State’s minimum wage in 2006 from $5.15 to $6.15 an hour. Then, in 2009, the Federal Government raised the wage to $7.25. That was 12 years ago, and the minimum wage hasn’t increased since. Only the cost of living has increased.

Folks working full-time earning the minimum wage aren’t making enough to feed their families, and that is not acceptable. No one working full-time should be working hard and not making enough if you don’t make enough.

That is why I am a proud supporter of H.R. 582, the Raise the Wage Act. The Raise the Wage Act would increase wages for over 150,000 people in my district in North Carolina. It is not just for the workers; it is good for the economy.

Unlike the GOP tax cut, which benefitted corporations and the wealthy, this bill will put money in the pockets of hardworking Americans, who will spend it in the local economy. My friends on the other side of the aisle will use outdated, misleading data to say that it will kill jobs. But the most comprehensive and recent research shows no job loss in cities that have already raised the wage to $15.

The American people are with us on this. A vast majority support raising the minimum wage.

You already know folks can’t survive on $7.25. We don’t have to do that in Congress. My folks on the other side of the aisle, you are making six figures. Can you survive on $7.25? Urge my colleagues, do what is right because it is right. America needs a raise. Join me in voting for this bill.

Give the American people a long overdue raise.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the Record a letter from 100 economists in support of the $15 minimum wage.

(From the Economic Policy Institute, Feb. 6, 2019)

Today, workers who earn the federal minimum wage make $7.25 an hour—about 29 percent less per hour than their counterparts in the next-wage category (after adjusting for inflation). We can afford to pay the lowest-paid workers in America substantially more than what their counterparts were paid a half century ago. Workers produce more today from each hour of work with productivity nearly doubling since the late 1960s. We, the undersigned, support gradually increasing the minimum wage to $15 by 2024, and then indexing it to median wages to protect against future erosion. We also support gradually phasing out the outdated subminimum wage for tipped workers, which has been frozen at $5.15 since 1991.

This policy would directly lift the wages of 28.1 million workers by 2024. Another 11.6 million workers whose wages are just above the new minimum would likely see a wage increase through “spillover” effects, as employers adjust their internal wage scales. The vast majority of employees who would benefit are adults—disproportionately women—in working families, who work at least 20 hours a week and depend on their earnings to make ends meet.

A $15 minimum wage by 2024 would result in $121 billion in higher wages for 39.7 million low-wage workers, which would also benefit their families and their communities. Since low-paid workers are more of their additional earnings, this injection of wages would modestly stimulate consumer
demand, business activity, and job growth. Further, modest and infrequent minimum wage increases are directly responsible for growing inequality between the bottom and the middle of the labor market. A $1 increase would provide a significant and much needed boost to the earnings of low-wage workers. And, because it would be indexed to growth in wages, it would ensure that the wage floor keeps up with growth of middle-wage workers going forward.

The benefits of gradually phasing in a $15 minimum wage by 2024 would be far-reaching, lifting pay for tens of millions of workers and helping reverse decades of growing pay inequality. The benefits of a $15 minimum wage in 2024 for workers, their families, and their communities far outweigh the potential costs. Of course, the minimum wage is only one policy designed to help low-wage workers. We believe that an increase in the minimum wage should be accompanied by complementary policies such as an expanded Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), enhanced safety net, increased job training, and policies to generate full employment.

Sincerely,

Daron Acemoglu, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Ph.D.; Jacqueline Agesa, Marshall University, Ph.D.; Alan Aja, Brooklyn College, Ph.D.; Randy Albert, University of Massachusetts Boston, Ph.D.; Sylvia A. Allegritti, University of California, Berkeley, Ph.D.; Bernard E. Anderson, University of Pennsylvania, Ph.D.; Robert M. Anderson, University of California, Berkeley, Ph.D.; Eileen Appelbaum, Center for Economic and Policy Research, Ph.D.; Michael Ash, University of Massachusetts Amherst Ph.D.; Algeron Austin, Demos, Ph.D.

Kate Bahn, Washington Center for Equitable Growth, Ph.D.; Dean Baker, Center for Economic and Policy Research, Ph.D.; Erdoghan Bakir, Bucknell University, Ph.D.; Stephanie Balkan, University of Massachusetts, Ph.D.; James Baron, Yale School of Management, Ph.D.; Lourdes Beneria, Cornell University, Ph.D.; Jared Bernstein, Ph.D.; Josh Bivens, Economic Policy Institute, Ph.D.; Sandra Black, University of Texas at Austin, Ph.D.; Gail Blattenberger, University of Utah, Ph.D.; Robert Blackman, American University, Ph.D.; Barry Bluestone, Northeastern University, Ph.D.; Barry Bosworth, Brookings Institution, Ph.D.; Heather Boushey, Washington, D.C.: Karen Boudreaux, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Ph.D.; Peter Daley, University of California, African Studies Center, Ph.D.; Claire Brown, University of California, Berkeley, Ph.D.; Lawrence Chimerine, Radnor Consulting, Ph.D.; Richard Coen, Northwestern University, Ph.D.; David Cutler Harvard University, Ph.D.; Sheldon Danziger, University of Michigan, Ph.D.; Angus Deaton, Princeton University, Ph.D.; Gregory DeF前世, Hofstra University, Ph.D.; James Devine, Loyola University Chicago, Ph.D.; Robert DiMond, University of Maryland, Ph.D.; Peter DiMond, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Ph.D.; Allan Freyer, NC Justice Center, Ph.D.; Teresa Giarduzzi The New School, Ph.D.; Jeter Ginsburg, Hart-Landsberg, Lewis and Clark College, Ph.D.; Jeff Hayes, Institute for Women's Policy Research, Ph.D.; Adam Hersh Former Chief Economist of the Economic Policy Institute, Ph.D.; Stephen Herzenberg, Keystone Research Center, Ph.D.; Emily Hoffman, Western Michigan University, Ph.D.; David Howell, The New School, Ph.D.; Candace Howes, Connecticut College, Ph.D.; Jennifer Hunt, Rutgers University, Ph.D.; Jeffrey Keefe, Rutgers University, Ph.D.; David Kiesling, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Ph.D.; Janet Knoedler, Bucknell University, Ph.D.; Ebru Kungar, Dickinson College, Ph.D.; Brent Kramer, City University of New York, Ph.D.; Paul Leigh, University of California, Davis, Ph.D.; Henry Levin, Columbia University, Ph.D.; Oren Levin, Metropolitan College of New York, Ph.D.; Mark Levinson, SIU, Ph.D.; Frank Levy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Ph.D.; David B. Lipsey; Barbara Matsuda, Oregon State University, Ph.D.; Pamela Loprest, Urban Institute, Ph.D.; Stephanie Luce, School of Labor and Urban Studies/CUNY, Ph.D.; Lisa Lynch, Brandeis University, Ph.D.; Silvia Torres, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Ph.D.; Julianne Malveaux, Economic Education, Ph.D.; Patrick Mason, Florida State University, Ph.D.; Jordan Matsuda, Columbia University, Ph.D.; Peter Matthews, Middlebury College, Ph.D.; Anne Mayhew, University of Tennessee, Ph.D.; Elaine McGann, University of Vermont, Ph.D.; John Miller Wheaton College, Ph.D.; Lawrence Mishel, Economic Policy Institute, Ph.D.; Monique Morrissey, University of Wisconsin, Ph.D.; Philip Moss, University of Massachusetts, Lowell, Ph.D.; Eshragh Motahar Union College, Ph.D.; Tracy Mott, University of Denver, Ph.D.; Richard Murnane, Harvard University, Ph.D.; Robert Murphy, Boston College, Ph.D.; Paulette Olson, Wright State University, Ph.D.; Rudolph Oswald, Retired, Ph.D.; Spencer Pack, Connecticut College, Ph.D.; Prasannan Parthasarathi, Boston College, Ph.D.; Manuel Pastor University of Southern California, Ph.D.; Pacione California Ph.D.; Eva Paus, Mount Holyoke College, Ph.D.; Kenneth Peres, Retired Communication Workers of America, Ph.D.; Joseph Peres University of Illinois at Chicago Ph.D.; Michael Piore, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Ph.D.; Robert Pollin, Political Economy Research Institute, Ph.D.; Mark Price, Keystone Research Center, Ph.D.; Michael Reich, University of California, Berkeley, Ph.D.; Rene Rosenbaum, Michigan State University, Ph.D.; Jesse Rothstein, University of California, Berkeley, Ph.D.; Daniel Rubinfeld University of California, Berkeley, Ph.D.; Emmanuel Saez, University of California, Berkeley, Ph.D.; Isabel Sawhill, Brookings Institution, Ph.D.; Peter Schaeffer, West Virginia University, Ph.D.; William Schuler, University of West Georgia, Ph.D.; John Schmitt, Economic Policy Institute, Ph.D.; Geoff Schneider, Bucknell University, Ph.D.; Juliet Schor, Boston College, Ph.D.; Robert E Scott Economic Policy Institute, Ph.D.; Heidi Shierholz, Economic Policy Institute, Ph.D.; Rachel Silbermann, Connecticut Voices for Children, Ph.D.; Andra Smythe, Howard University, Ph.D.; Youngwan Song, Union College Ph.D.; Sarah Woolford Hill, Case Western Reserve University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Ph.D.; William E Spriggs, Howard University and AFL-CIO, Ph.D.; Marshall Steinbaum, Rose State College, Ph.D.; James Stewart, The Pennsylvania State University State College, Ph.D.; Frank Stricker, CSU Dominguez Hills, Ph.D.; Kenneth Thomas, University of Missouri-St Louis, Ph.D.; Christine, University of California Los Angeles, Ph.D.; Laura Tyson, University of California Berkeley, Ph.D.; Johan Uribe, Denison University, Ph.D.; Paula Voos, Rutgers University, Ph.D.; Richard Walker University of California, Berkeley, Ph.D.; Robert Wasmber, California State University, Sacramento, Ph.D.; David Weil, Brandeis University, Ph.D.; Joann Weiner, The George Washington University Ph.D.; Jeanette Wicks-Malmer, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Ph.D.; Charles Wilkins, University of Notre Dame, Ph.D.; Sarah Wilhalm, Guilford College, Ph.D.; Valerie Wilson, Economic Policy Institute, Ph.D.; Yavuz Yasuy, University of Denver, Ph.D.; Alexia Zhong, Ph.D.; Ben Zipperer, Economic Policy Institute, Ph.D.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I do agree with one thing one of our colleagues across the aisle said a few minutes ago. We do need to let the American people know what this House is about to do; kill millions of jobs.

The CBO's estimate was that 1.3 million jobs would be lost, minimum. Of those jobs lost, 60 percent would be female workers, 46 percent would be young workers, and 38 percent would have less than a high school diploma. These are the people that our colleagues claim they care about.

However, what they want to do here today is harm those very people. So I think it is important that we let the American people understand what this legislation does.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 ½ minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALTER).
We have seen the real-world consequences of a $15 minimum wage in cities like Seattle. It resulted in small businesses cutting jobs and workers receiving fewer hours and overall take-home pay. Instead of a one-size-fits-all approach, there is a better way to boost income for hardworking families. Let’s focus on policies that keep our economy thriving and create more opportunities for all Americans to find good-paying, living-wage jobs that allow advancements as well, not just minimum wage.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I remind my colleagues that his vote against this bill is a vote to deny about 32 percent of the workers in my district in Michigan an average raise of about $2,300 a year. And in the CBO report that he cited, three of the most recent studies cited in that report show an actual increase in jobs, not a decrease.

Mr. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, this is a big day. Today we pass the first minimum wage increase for workers in decades.

And, yes, I am proud to represent Seattle, a leader in the fight for $15, where I served on the committee that actually drafted the legislation that passed, ultimately.

It has been 4 years since Seattle raised the wage, and I want to tell my colleagues across the aisle what the effect of that increase has been.

Seattle is flourishing. Today we have one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country, and jobs are growing steadily.

Last year, Forbes ranked Seattle the number one city for business and careers in 2018, and despite the doom and gloom predictions from the National Restaurant Association when we passed the bill, what we have seen is what The Seattle Times called “a crazy restaurant boom” — that is a quote — with new jobs being created every year.

The most recent and credible research shows that wages for Seattle’s low-wage workers went up without any negative impact on employment, and local food prices remained constant so that families would better afford to buy healthy food.

When we increased the minimum wage in Seattle, Mr. Speaker, we got strong businesses, healthy families, and — and healthy communities. All American workers deserve the same thing. Let’s raise the wage today.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a second letter from the National Employment Law Project in support of this legislation.

If enacted, this legislation would:
- Gradually raise the federal minimum wage to $15 an hour in 2025;
- After 2025, adjust the minimum wage each year to keep up with growth in the typical worker’s wages;
- Phase out the outdated subminimum wage for tipped workers who had been frozen at a meager $2.13 since 1991; and,
- Sunset the much criticized ability of employers to pay workers with disabilities a subminimum wage through certificates issued by DOL.

Phase out the subminimum wage for workers under the age of 20. At Vanishing wage stagnation and income inequality pose serious threats to our families and our economy, the Raise the Wage Act of 2019 will begin to reverse that trend and will dramatically improve the bottom of the workforce. According to the Economic Policy Institute, this Act will deliver long overdue raises to more than 1 in 4 workers, 90% of whom are over the age of 20. The average age of workers who would get a raise is 35, nearly half have some years of college education. In fact, those who work year-round, who are in the order of $3,000 a year, which is enough to make a tremendous difference in the life of a preschool teacher, bank teller, or fast-food worker who today struggles to get by on around $20,000 per year.

28 percent are working parents with children, and half have family incomes of less than $40,000. Our Act would take up nearly 58 percent of the workers who would benefit from a $15 minimum wage, which would be instrumental in helping to close the gender-wage-gap. Raising the minimum wage to $15 would also significantly benefit workers of color, with 38 percent of African American workers and 33 percent of Latino workers seeing a pay increase once this law goes into effect.

These are the frontline workers who make America run — yet due to the erosion of the real value of the minimum wage over the last half century, they are struggling even as our economy enjoys a solid recovery.

The time for the Raise the Wage Act is long overdue, and we cannot delay in working toward its passage. We call on Congress to enact this important piece of legislation as quickly as possible, and for President Trump to sign it when it comes to his desk.

Sincerely,

Jackson State University; Jewish Women International; Jobs with Justice; Just Harvest; Kentucky Center for Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare; Kentucky Justice and Advocacy Committee of the LEAF Conference of Churches; Justice for Migrant Women; Kalamazoo Leavrs & Fishes; Kansas Association of Community Action Programs; Kentucky Equal Justice Center; Kentucky State AFL-CIO; Keystone Progress; Kentucky Research, Center for Social Change; Laborer’s Local 699 Social Justice Center; KDE Law Center for Social Justice and Change.

La Frontera Ministries; La Plata County Thrive! Living Wage Coalition; Labor Education Program, School of Labor and Employment Relations, University of Illinois; Lamouille Family Center; Law Foundation of Silicon Valley; Law Students in Court; Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law; Leadership Conference of Women Religious; Legal Aid and Justice Coalition for Civil and Human Rights; Leadership Team, Sisters of the Presentations; Legal Aid at Work; Legal Aid Service of Broward County; Legal Momentum; The Women’s Law Center; Defense and Education Fund; Legal Voice; Let Justice Roll: Living Wage Campaign.

Lincoln Hills Development Corporation; Living United for Trees; Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy; Louisiana Budget Project; Louisiana Progress Action; Main Street Alliance; Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence; Maine Women’s Lobby; Maimers for Accountable Leadership; Make the Road PA; Maryland Center on Economic and Housing Solutions; Maryland National Organization for Women; Massachusetts Law Reform Institute.

Maternal and Child Health Access; MCCU-MA; Men of All Colors Together (MACT)/Philad.; Mercy Haven Inc., Methodist Federation for Social Action; Metro-Detroit Chapter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW); Metropolitan Community Church of Washington, D.C.; Metropolitan Washington Employment Lawyers Association; Michigan League for Public Policy; Michigan’s Children; Middlesex Coalition for Children; Milwaukee Area Service & Hospitality Workers Organizing Committee; Montana Council for the Homeless; Mississippi Families for Kids; Mississippi Low Income Child Care Initiative.

Missouri CLUW Chapter; MomeRising; Mountain State Justice; MWC, AFL-CIO; NAACP.

NARAL Pro-Choice North Carolina; Nash-ua Soup Kitchen and Shelter; National Advocates for Community Action Against Hunger; National Advocates for the Elderly; National Advocates for Life; National Advocates for the Homeless; National Association forの、the Deaf; National Black Justice Coalition.


National Women’s Law Center; National Working Families Party; National Works Institute; NC Justice Center; NC State AFL-CIO; Nebraska Appleseed; Nebraska Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers; National Council of Social Workers—PA; National Council of Social Workers—Texas; National Council of Social Workers—Florida; National Disability Rights Network; National Domestic Workers Alliance; National Education Association; National Employment Law Project.

The undersigned organizations enthusiastically support the Raise the Wage Act of 2019, introduced by Senators Bernie Sanders (VT) and Cory Booker (NJ) and Representatives Bobby C. “Bobby” Scott (VA), Mark Paeen (WI) and Stephanie Murphy (FL).
Sacramento; New Voices for Reproductive Justice; New York Paid Leave Coalition; North American Climate, Conservation and Environment (NACCE); North Carolina Alliance for Education; North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence; North Carolina Council of Churches; North Dakota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers; North Dakota Economic Security and Prosperity Alliance.

Northwest Indiana Community Action: Northwest Indiana Project; Oakland Park Democratic Club; Oakland Symphony; Oklahoma Legal Services; Ohaha Family Foundation; Ohio Coalition of Labor Union Women; Ohio Domestic Violence Network; Oklahoma Policy Institute; Women's Coalition; One Pennsylvania; One Stop Career Center of PR Inc; Orange County Poverty Alleviation Coalition; Organize Florida; OUR NOVA.

Oxfam America; Pathways PA; Patriotic Millionaires; Pax Christi Florida; Pax Christi Illinois; Pax Christi USA; Peace, Justice, Sustainability Florida; Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center; Pennsylvania Council of Churches; Pennsylvania Together; People Demanding Action; People's Institute for Housing Policy; Philadelphia Coalition of Labor Union Women; Philly Neighborhood Networks; Piedmont Housing Alliance.

Planet Earth; Policy Matters Ohio; Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign; Positive Women's Network-USA; PowHer New York; Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); Pritle at Work; Princeton Community Housing; Professional Child Care Provider Network; Project Bread-The Walk for Hunger; Promise The Children; Provincial Council Clerics of St. Viator; Public Advocacy for Kids; Public Citizen; Public Citizens for Children and Youth (PCCY); Public Justice Center.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as our colleagues have noted, States and localities may enact higher minimum wages than the Federal minimum wage, and there are examples of that. But let’s leave freedom in the hands of the people, in the hands of the States. That is what this country is all about.

In socialist regimes, all decisions are made by a small group of people at a central government. That is not the American way.

Mr. SPEAKER. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY).

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I think dates matter and I think votes matter, and I think that sometimes because of where we are, this is kind of this Potomac amnesia.

We say we want to raise people’s wages, we want to create jobs, we want to be able to do things that lift every single boat because that is what a rising tide does. It is not a Democrat tide; it is not a Republican tide; it is a rising tide for the American people. I would just want to remind my colleagues, in December of 2017, not one of you was on board with the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. You could not vote for it in the House; you could not vote for it in the Senate; North Dakota alone.

And we come here today and we talk about minimum wage and raising minimum wages, and I would just suggest to you that America is not about minimalists. Nobody comes to America because I may get a minimum wage increase. They come to America because of maximum opportunity.

Why would we dwell on a minimum wage when we did not take a chance in December of 2017 to lift all boats?

Why would we turn our back on an opportunity to completely change the economy of the United States?

Why would we turn our back on workers who have worked for many years, and we sit today with millions of open jobs and we don’t have enough workers to fill them?

And what are we talking about today? We are trying to right a wrong. We are trying to fix, somehow, a wrongheaded decision to vote against the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

And a lot of it had to do with not because we were Republicans, but because we have somebody in the White House that we just don’t like; and, my God, if you do something that lifts the hopes of all Americans and the wishes of all Americans and Donald Trump gets credit for it, that just won’t work in 2020.

I would ask my friends on the other side, if you really want to see America soar, stop putting roadblocks in the way. Stop standing in the way of hardworking American taxpayers who couldn’t care less what your political affiliation is but watch the legislation that you pass and, more importantly, that the legislation that you passed.

I would just remind you—and I know you are going to tell me the average wages in Pennsylvania—those wages are only available if you get hired.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman has suggested, his vote against the bill is a vote to deny working families in his district in Pennsylvania an average raise of $3,900 a year, while the tax bill that he supported, 80 percent of the benefits of that bill went to the top 1 percent and corporations.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the House majority leader.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I like the gentleman from Pennsylvania. He and I are friends. We disagree.

I proudly voted against the tax bill which, I think, spiked the deficit, and we had a continuation of the extraordinary growth of jobs and the economy under the Obama administration, and that has continued in a straight line. It didn’t spike up—straight line.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Raise the Wage Act. This is direct—not indirect, not trickle down, direct—saying to some of the people who have written to ask me to support a higher minimum wage that doesn’t even allow minimum wages in Pennsylvania—those wages are going to help. We think what you are doing is right, and we are going to help. We think what you do is valuable to our community and to our society.

We need to make certain that wages keep pace with the cost of living. We haven’t done that. For 10 years, we haven’t given a raise.

We need to value the labor that our people contribute into the economy. That is why we have a Federal minimum wage that in the real world, for minimum wage workers who works hard, full time, ought to be able to afford, not simply to get by, but to try to get ahead.

I have heard from many in my district and you have told me that increasing the minimum wage will have a major impact on their incomes and their lives.

Dana Hudson from Owings in Calvert County, Maryland, makes the minimum wage of $10.10 an hour and supplements his income with farming of his land. He is 60 years old and looking ahead to retirement, knowing that a higher minimum wage in his final years of working will go a long way towards giving him and his wife retirement security.

Delano Alexander of Clinton, Maryland, is an environmental services aide at Prince George’s Hospital Center. He earns $12.85 an hour, presently, and if we pass this bill, he will get an income bump through the Bread for Hunger Network who have told me that increasing the minimum wage so that others who are working with him and haven’t found better jobs can get the same economic security he now has.

We referred to 27 million, 33 million—whatever that number is between 27 and 33—are going to get a raise by this bill. That didn’t happen in the tax bill.

Some of the richest people in America got a huge increase, but not the average American working guy and gal.

In June, we marked 10 years since the last minimum wage increase went into effect, the longest period without an increase since the minimum wage was first introduced under Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal.

I was proud to bring legislation to the floor in 2007 to raise the minimum wage the last time Congress did so, and I am proud to do it again today. This is long overdue, something the previous Republican majorities made a priority but failed to accomplish.

Today, low-income workers in our economy are getting a bad deal with a minimum wage that doesn’t even allow many workers to get by, let alone get ahead working 40 hours a week and living in poverty. That is not a successful American economy, because 10 years have passed without an increase.

Workers stuck earning the current minimum wage of just $7.25 an hour have effectively received a 17 percent pay cut over the last 10 years. That is why the House will vote today on the Raise the Wage Act, which will gradually raise the Federal minimum wage
This bill also eliminates the subminimum wage for those with disabilities, which will ensure their equal pay and the ability to live with independence. Many of our corporates and municipalities have already raised their minimum wages to this level, and it has not caused the dire consequences that some on the other side of the aisle have predicted. My home State of Maryland took action earlier this year to raise the minimum wage to $15 an hour. I am proud of that fact.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has determined that raising the minimum wage to $15 an hour would provide the great work our State has done to grow jobs and the economy. And I am telling you, we are getting it done in Georgia, but I don't want Maryland to determine what Georgia is going to do. And don't want Seattle to determine what Georgia is going to do.

As a businessperson, I know that our economy is all about supply and demand, and with more job openings, then job seekers’ wages are going to go up. And it is going to be more difficult to find workers to keep their jobs. It is supply and demand, folks.

In fact, in 2018, wages and salaries saw the largest increase in more than a decade, thanks to the economic environment led by a Republican-led Congress and President Trump that has spurred economic growth and prosperity.

The last thing we need are more one-size-fits-all Washington mandates that would make it harder for small businesses to grow and ultimately shut the doors of our Nation’s small businesses. Mr. Speaker, I urge a “no” vote on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN), the co-chair of the Progressive Caucus.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Scott for yielding. I do find it interesting to sit and listen to a debate today where people who make $174,000 a year and half of which are millionaires are telling people they should be satisfied trying to exist on $15,000 a year, which is the very reason we are here today: to try to raise the wage for 33 million people, a quarter of the workforce in this country.

No family in the United States can live on $7.25 an hour and make ends meet.

In my home State of Wisconsin, you would have to work 93 hours a week at minimum wage in order to afford a modest two-bedroom apartment, and there is not a single county in the country where earning the minimum wage for 40 hours a week can afford a two-bedroom apartment.

I come to Congress with 3 decades as a small businesswoman. Small business owners know our workers are our customers, our neighbors, and our community members.

When workers have more money in their pockets, they have more money to spend to care for their families and stimulate our economy.

This is especially true in rural areas, where workers have only a handful of employment options. If the primary employer in a rural town is a multibillion-dollar corporation like Walmart, they can afford to pay their workers $15 an hour instead of holding down wages for the entire community.

Congress recently set a new record for the longest stretch in U.S. history with a hike in the minimum wage: 10 years. It is long past due that we show workers respect by putting more money in their pockets and support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the United Food and Commercial Workers.


To All Members of the U.S. House of Representatives:

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW) which represents more than 1.3 million working Americans in food and non-food retail, pharmacy, food processing, and manufacturing, I urge you to vote for the Raise the Wage Act (H.R. 582). It is time for any amendment that would weaken the bill. UFCW will be scoring this vote.

The Raise the Wage Act will raise the federal minimum wage from $7.25 to $15 in this year and gradually increase it over the next five years until it reaches $15 an hour in 2024.

After 2024, the minimum wage will be indexed so that it continues to rise along with the primary earnings of tipped workers, people with disabilities, and youth so that they, too, can benefit from a decent minimum wage.

Raising the minimum wage will be good for the economy and stimulate consumer spending. Today’s low-wage workers earn less per hour than their counterparts did 50 years ago but productivity has nearly doubled in that time. If the minimum wage had been raised at the same pace as productivity growth, it would be over $20 an hour today. Increasing the minimum wage would generate $14 billion in additional wages and most of those earnings would go to small grocery stores and other main street businesses because lower-paid workers spend a greater proportion of their earnings.

The Raise the Wage Act will deliver long-overdue raises to a large segment of the workforce. Gradually raising the federal minimum wage to $15 by 2024 would lift pay for nearly 40 million workers—26.6 percent of the U.S. workforce. A $15 minimum wage would begin to reverse decades of pay erosion for the lowest-paid workers and the middle class.

Raising the minimum wage would significantly benefit workers of color and women. Nearly two-fifths (36 percent) of African Americans and one-third (35 percent) of Latinos would get a raise and 56 percent of women workers would benefit.

Definitely, the country, there is an overwhelming momentum in favor of raising wages for our nation’s lowest-wage workers. Since 2014, twenty-one states, plus D.C., have approved minimum-wage increases. In Massachusetts, New York, and the District of Columbia, the District of Columbia have approved raising their minimum wages to $15 an hour and Washington, Oregon, Colorado, Arizona, Missouri, Michigan, and Maine have approved minimum wages ranging from $12 to $14.75 an hour.
UFCW opposes a regional minimum wage. Regional minimum wages bake-in low wages to already low-wage places. Rural counties and Southern cities where wages have been depressed by a variety of social, political, and economic reasons would effectively have their low-wage status locked in. The power of the minimum wage to boost worker incomes, and thus consumer buying power, would be legislatively kneecapped for the areas that could most use a boost in local consumer demand.

Raising the minimum wage is long overdue. I call on every member of Congress to vote for the Raise the Wage Act and enact this important piece of legislation as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

ADEMOLA OYEFESO,
International Vice President, Director, Legislative and Political Action Department.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE).

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 582.

This bill's disruptive job losses and harm entry-level workers in many regions around the country, effectively knocking the bottom rung off the career ladder and especially hurting young workers.

Last Monday, CBO issued a long-awaited study which estimates that up to 3.7 million jobs would be lost from a $15 minimum wage, with a median estimate of 1.3 million jobs lost. That includes 44,000 jobs that would be lost in my home State of Alabama, and those under 21 will suffer half those job losses.

When comparing those numbers with the report's estimate that only 1.3 million individuals would be lifted out of poverty, H.R. 582 would cost at least one job to be lost for every person who moved out of poverty. In the CBO's high-impact scenario, as many as three jobs would be lost for every individual moving out of poverty.

This is not a tradeoff that Congress should make for a variety of social, political, and economic reasons. Instead of providing tangible benefits to working class Americans, H.R. 582 would cause the most harm to the very people its supporters claim to help.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose an

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I remind my colleague that his vote against this bill is a vote to deny about 37 percent of the workers in his district in Alabama an average wage of about $3,700 a year.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. NURCROSS), a distinguished member of the Committee on Education and Labor.

Mr. NURCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. SCOTT for making sure that we finally, after 11 years, will have a vote to raise the minimum wage.

This is America. You play by the rules, you work hard, you are supposed to be able to make it, but that is not the way it is.

Less than 2 years ago, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle made sure that the top 1 percent got their raise, as they are stepping on the American worker.

Today is the day that we set the record straight and give opportunities to those who need it the most.

Henry Ford said it: Make sure you pay your employees enough money so they can buy your product and services.

That is the true case of what is going on here today. You give a raise to the people who need it the most to survive, not to invest in a shore home. They will spend it right in their neighborhood going to the supermarket and drugstore.

They shouldn't have to make the decision whether or not to put clothes on their kids' backs or to feed them, but that is what is going on today.

Those in the top 1 percent got their raise. It is time that those who work hard and have the dignity of a job get their raise.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the United Steel Workers.

UNITED STEELWORKERS,
Pittsburgh, PA, July 15, 2019.

Re United Steelworkers support H.R. 582, the Raise the Wage Act.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 582.

UNITED STEELWORKERS,
Pittsburgh, PA, July 15, 2019.

Dear Representative: On behalf of the 585,000 members of the United Steelworkers (USW), I urge you to stand with workers and support the Raise the Wage Act (H.R. 582).

In the 10 years since Congress last took action, the federal minimum wage has remained stagnant, eroding the earnings and purchasing power for millions of American wage workers and their families. According to the Economic Policy Institute, the current federal minimum wage is worth 17 percent less than it was 10 years ago, down a staggering 31 percent from its peak value in 1968. It is clear that this stagnation has resulted in a cut in real wages for those workers who can least afford it.

While 29 states and the District of Columbia have taken action to raise their wage floors, the failure of federal action on the minimum wage means roughly 40 percent of Americans and their communities have seen continued wage stagnation.

It is past time for America to address the growing needs of low-wage workers and low-income families and raise the federal minimum wage. In the Raise the Wage Act (H.R. 582), the value of the federal minimum wage would be restored by incrementally raising the nation's wage floor to $15.00 an hour by 2024, above inflation. The legislation would also eliminate the subminimum wages currently in effect for tipped workers and workers with disabilities, ensuring that all groups have access to consistent wages.

Everyone benefits when the floor is raised. According to the Congressional Budget Office, raising the wage to $15.00 an hour would boost the earnings of 27 million workers and their families, lifting some of America's poorest families above the poverty line.

This bill would cause disruptive job losses. With 7.3 million unfilled jobs nationally and President Trump's focus on eliminating regulations, this legislation will serve as an important step to empowering workers. USW urges you to give America's lowest paid workers a raise and enact the Raise the Wage Act (H.R. 582).

Sincerely,

THOMAS M. CONWAY,
International President.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, our colleagues say all the time that we need to help the people at the bottom of the ladder.

Those are exactly the people who are being helped by the Republican policies that were enacted in the first 2 years of this administration. We are seeing people at the bottom running a percentage increase. That is already being done, and it is because of regulations being reduced and the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER).

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

When I was a teenager, at 14 years old, one of my first jobs was serving as a dishwasher at Smoketown family restaurant. I had no previous work experience, but the owner took a chance on me. I certainly didn't receive a great wage, but it was a starting point, and the lessons that I learned in that job were the lessons that I used during my entire career.

I went on after high school to buy a small construction company, operated it for 25 years, creating family-sustaining jobs for hundreds of individuals.

Today, my 16-year-old son serves food in a skilled nursing center after school at a wage of $9 an hour. He is very thrilled with that; again, learning the skills, the people skills, needed, learning to show up for work on time, learn to work hard.

In fact, one of the best indicators of success in a career is whether or not you had a job during high school.

This bill, unfortunately, would rob many of the opportunity to hold that first job. CBO specifically said 3.7 million jobs will be lost as a result of this bill.

Our friends on the other side of the aisle are not talking about that aspect of the bill.

There is no question here about the desire to see every individual that we represent have the opportunity to live the American Dream: the idea the previous speaker just said, the idea that
you can work hard, play by the rules, and you can live your dream. The question is the prescription, and it is a fundamental choice. It is a choice of believing in our free enterprise system, believing in our economic system that has provided us more opportunities than ever before in the history of the world, or believing in more government control.

Today, someone can apply at the construction company that I operated for many years——

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SMUCKER. Today, someone can apply at that company and have no experience and start at $16 an hour. That wasn’t a government prescription. That is the free enterprise system at work.

I am very, very proud, as the result of the work that we have done over the last 2 years, the tax reform act, for the first time, we are seeing wages rise.

Again, it is not as a result of a bill like this, which would have exactly the opposite effect on that ability to achieve upward mobility.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I remind my colleague that his vote against the bill is a vote to deny about $3,200, and that, in fact, wages for low-income workers have been going up, but only because States and localities have been increasing the minimum wage, just like this bill does.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the vice chair of the Education and Labor Committee.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter to all Members of the House from the AFL-CIO, AFL-CIO, July 12, 2019.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the AFL-CIO, I am writing to urge you to vote for the “Raise the Wage Act of 2019” (H.R. 582) scheduled for floor consideration this week. This legislation would gradually raise the federal minimum wage to $15 an hour by the year 2024. In addition to indexing future increases to the growth in the median wage, the bill would gradually eliminate the subminimum wage for tipped workers, which has been in place since 1938.

Because Congress has not raised the minimum wage in more than 10 years, millions of our Nation’s full-time workers live in poverty. A wage in them wage had risen at the same pace as productivity growth since 1969, it would be over $20 an hour today.

Phasing in a $15 minimum wage would benefit 41 million workers and begin to address the growing crisis of wage inequality. More than half of the workers who would benefit are adults between the ages of 25 and 54, and nearly two-thirds work full time. More than half (56 percent) are women, nearly 30 percent of whom have children.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, an adult without children will need at least $13,200 ($15 per hour on an annual basis) to achieve an adequate standard of living in all parts of the country. Allowing for a lower regional minimum wage, as some have suggested, would lock millions of workers into poverty, and would be especially harmful for color and women who would benefit most from a minimum wage increase.

Multiple studies have shown that modest increases in the minimum wage have not resulted in significant job loss, and the income boost experienced by low-income families benefits the country overall by reducing both poverty and income inequality.

Raising the minimum wage to $15 has the support of an overwhelming majority of Americans, and the Federal Government has set a minimum wage in this country since 1938, all the great growth years of this economy. We are just saying that the rate should be sensible.

I came to Washington to raise the standard of living for working people in Michigan’s Ninth District and all across this country, and that is exactly what this bill does.

Working a full-time job should guarantee that you can provide for your family, and a $7.25-an-hour minimum wage doesn’t cut it, especially while worker productivity has increased exponentially, and executive salaries have skyrocketed.

The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) said the CBO score said a minimum of 1.3 million jobs would be lost. I want to correct the record. They said a minimum of zero would be. The median projection is that 1.3 million might be.

Mr. Speaker, I want to remind all of my colleagues that in 2018, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said that 7,769,000 American workers were working multiple jobs because one job didn’t cut it, they didn’t make enough. And that is almost certainly an undercount, according to all experts. If just one in five of those people being forced to work multiple jobs could quit their second and third job, that would take care of 1.6 million jobs we wouldn’t need, because workers were being paid a living wage.

We have waited more than 10 years to give American families a raise. And I want to thank the people of Michigan’s Ninth District, where about 104,800 people would get a raise under this bill, have waited long enough.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this historic legislation.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the distinguished Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I thank him for his extraordinary leadership, historic, really, for giving us this opportunity today to do something very special for the American people, for America’s working families.

This is an historic day, yes, because we are raising the minimum wage here in the House of Representatives, because we are channeling the energy of so many people across the country for fairness in the workplace, but it also happens to be the 171st anniversary of the Seneca Falls Convention.

The Seneca Falls Convention shook the world, when they had that convention, with the simple proclamation that all men and women are created equal.

This bill achieves that equality, giving nearly 20 million working women, that is nearly one-third of all working women, a raise. And it helps narrow the gender wage gap that disproportionately targets women of color, putting more money in the pockets of more than one-third of working women of color.

Today, we wake up for a day of jubilation because of the sense of fairness that this legislation engenders. We wake up every morning with a smile on our face, showing the world all the love in our hearts, and that love in our hearts is about fairness for the American people.

It is interesting to note, Mr. Speaker, as has been acknowledged—as I just heard Congressman LEVIN mention, and others as well—and we have been 10 years since the Federal minimum wage was raised in the previous Democratic majority. It had been 11 years before then, when we passed it in 2007, and it was signed by President Bush. It was bipartisan, and we were thrilled about that.

It is interesting to see what has happened in the time since then. While families work hard to make ends meet, the cost of living has surged to unsustainable highs. Inflation has eaten nearly 20 percent of their wages, and the GOP special interest agenda has left them far behind.

I mentioned that this is about equality, women. It is about 30 million people in our country getting a raise—30 million people—and so many people being lifted out of poverty.

I talked about 2007. That is when we first passed it in the House. It took a little more time for it to be law, going through the Senate and the rest.

When we passed it, we were so thrilled, knowing that the President
would sign it. We had a big rally outside the Capitol. As soon as the rally was finished, Senator Ted Kennedy, who had been a really important part of the Senate action on raising the minimum wage, said: ‘You know what we have to do now? We have to raise the minimum wage!’

We always have to be injecting fairness, all the time. We must never stop fighting to put more money in the families and for America because every inclusive vote for this victory for working families and women, again, affected so drastically.

American workers deserve a raise. No one can live with dignity on a $7.25 per hour wage. Can you?

'Re the Raise the Wage Act honors workers and supports families, giving 33 million Americans a long-overdue raise and lifting many out of poverty.

The bill grows our economy, increasing families’ purchasing power, which drives economic growth that lifts up all communities. The consumer confidence America’s working families is an important element in growing our economy.

It brings our democracy closer to the founding ideals, upholding the bedrock of America’s founding ideals, upholding the bedrock and lifting many out of poverty.

We always have to be injecting fairness and for America because every inclusive vote for this victory for working families and women, again, affected so drastically.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a strong, bipartisan vote for this victory for working families and for America because every Member of this institution should be fighting to put more money in the pockets of workers in their community.

Ms. FOXXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. TRONE), the distinguished member of the Committee on Education and Labor.

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Raise the Wage Act.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from over 1,000 businesses that support a fair minimum wage.

BUSINESS FOR A FAIR MINIMUM WAGE FEDERAL $15 SIGN ON STATEMENT PART 2 OF LIST OF ABOUT 1,000 SIGNERS AND COUNTING AS OF JULY 17, 2019

Alan Chebot, Owner, Parallax Productions, Allston, MA; David Meyerson, CEO, Dean’s Beans Organic Coffee Company, Orange, MA; Fred Davis, President, Fred Davis Corporation, Medfield, MA; Megan Driscoll, CEO, Phare, Third Place Markets and surrounding communities, Quincy, MA; Juley Emerson, Co-founder, Rainbow Solu-

PART 2 OF LIST OF ABOUT 1,000 SIGNERS AND COUNTING AS OF JULY 17, 2019

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1,000+ businesses that support a fair minimum wage.
I rode my bike to a nearby farm, and I picked fruit. I didn’t make minimum wage because I couldn’t pick fruit fast enough, because I didn’t have the skills to do that when I was 13 years old, but I learned to show up on time with a good attitude. That is a valuable thing.

That job wouldn’t have been available if this minimum wage of $15, enacted from the Federal level, would have forced that employer to make a choice, whether he hired me or somebody else. I didn’t want to make the minimum wage. I wanted to make the maximum wage, but I had to have some skills.

The next job I got still wasn’t minimum wage, but I worked hard. Now, I had the skill of showing up on time with a good attitude. I kept on doing better and better and better for myself because the jobs were available.

Mr. Speaker, if this legislation is enacted, young people and people at the bottom of the economic spectrum that we are trying to help are not going to have that opportunity. That is what this is really about in America, having opportunity.

A minimum wage requirement from the Federal level doesn’t draw any distinctions between Los Angeles and Gratz, Pennsylvania, a great little town that I am privileged to represent. It doesn’t draw a distinction between Chicago or Shiremanstown. It says they all have to do the same thing. Dover or New York, all the same wage, really.

I don’t have tall skyscrapers in central Pennsylvania like they do in New York City, Chicago, and L.A., but I have hardworking people who want the opportunity that is provided by the market.

There are 7.5 million jobs open right now. The market is providing the wages to incentivize people to come to them, and they have an opportunity to go to another job and make even more under the free market.

The Federal Government is going to stifle that with this $15 an hour minimum wage.

Mr. Speaker, I urge us not to vote for this bill.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I remind my colleague that his vote against this bill is a vote to deny about 35 percent of the workers in his district in Pennsylvania an average raise of about $3,200 a year.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD), a distinguished member of the Committee on Education and Labor.

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, there should not be anybody in this room arguing that $7.25 is a worker’s well-being. When adjusted for inflation, $7.25 is less than the Federal minimum wage of 50 years ago.

I support this bill because, while corporations are making record profits off the backs of workers, wage stagnation and increased cost of living have bankrupted hardworking families across my district.

This bill would increase the minimum wage gradually.

This is not a “bad for business” piece of legislation, as my colleagues across the aisle allege. It is a “good for everyone” bill that puts more money into our workers’ pockets.

Mr. Speaker, if the past were to baffle by the opposition to this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Ms. WILD. The Federal Labor Standards Act was passed in 1938 for the explicit purpose of protecting workers from substandard wages. That landmark bill passed the House by a vote of 291-28.

By the letter of that law, the minimum standard of living necessary for a worker’s well-being is in Congress’ hands. Members of both parties chose not to leave it up to market forces because poverty-level wages, sweatshops, and poor working conditions should not happen in the United States of America in 1938 or in 2019.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WRIGHT).

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 582, the Raise the Wage Act, or, as it should be called, the Raising Unemployment for American Workers Act.

I was disappointed to hear that Democratic members on the Rules Committee failed to make my amendment in order. The amendment prohibited H.R. 582 from going into effect if the Government Accountability Office found that over 500,000 jobs would be lost to automation as a direct result of this legislation; a very reasonable amendment.

This amendment was intended to make sure that, in seeking to improve economic outcomes for workers, especially lower-wage and lesser-skilled workers, we don’t adopt policies that have the opposite effect.

This radical legislation would more than double the Federal minimum wage, the largest-ever increase since its creation. The recent Congressional Budget Office report on this bill paints a bleak picture of the consequences if it ever becomes law.

When fully implemented, this legislation would result in as many as 3.7 million, almost 270,000 from the State of Texas, jobs lost. Across the country, total real family income would drop by $9 billion.

At a time when the economy is expanding, wages are rising above inflation, and unemployment is the lowest it has been in decades, we should not be considering job-killing, income-reducing legislation.
The negative impacts of such a disastrous bill would be felt in high-income urban areas, but they would be even more severe in lower income rural areas. The economic conditions of Navarro County, Texas, in my district, where the median income is $45,000 a year, are not the same as San Francisco, where the median income is more than double that. A federally mandated doubling of the minimum wage would burden these people and businesses, forcing them to cut hours, let employees go, and close business doors.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. WRIGHT. My colleagues across the aisle like to point to the number of people who will be lifted out of poverty but consistently fail to acknowledge that the same number of Americans are expected to lose their jobs. It seems to me that this bill is a sweet deal, but only if you get to keep your job.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is left on both sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Virginia has 10% minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from North Carolina has 2% minutes remaining.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I remind my colleagues from Texas that a vote against this bill is a vote to deny about 30 percent of the workers in his district in Texas an average raise of about $3,800 a year.

I also will point out that the same CBO report that he cited cites the three most recent studies showing the number of jobs will actually go up as a direct result of the passage of this bill, and 27 million people are getting a raise.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Mrs. TRAHAN), a distinguished member of the Committee on Education and Labor.

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from women’s community groups in support of this legislation.

The Raise the Wage Act

July 15, 2019.

Pass the Raise the Wage Act

DEAR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: As members of a broad coalition of organizations that promote economic security and equity for women, we strongly urge you to pass the Raise the Wage Act as a top priority of the 116th Congress.

We urge you to support the Raise the Wage Act, which would raise the federal minimum wage, currently $7.25, to $15 an hour by 2024, then index the minimum wage so that it continues to rise along with wages overall. It will also end unfair exclusions for tipped workers, people with disabilities, and youth so that they, too, can benefit from a decent minimum wage.

Women across the country—especially women of color—continue to experience a pay gap and a higher risk of poverty than men. Over the past 30 years, full-time, year-round workers typically make only 80 percent of what their male counterparts make, leaving a wage gap of 20 cents on the dollar. This wage gap varies by race and is larger for women of color: Black women working full time, year round typically make only 61 cents, Native women only 56 cents, for every dollar paid to their white, non-Hispanic male counterparts. While Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) women earn more than White women, not all AAPI women fare well: Among non-Hispanic men, many AAPI communities experience drastically wider pay gaps.

Women’s overrepresentation in low-wage jobs is a direct force behind the gender pay gap. Women are close to two-thirds of the workforce in jobs that pay the minimum wage or just a few dollars above it, as well as two-thirds of the tipped jobs where women of color are particularly overrepresented among tipped workers and other low-wage workers. They are particularly harmed by the $7.25 federal minimum wage that has not gone up in a decade and by the $2.13 tipped minimum cash wage that has been frozen for an astonishing 28 years.

Poverty-level wages heighten women’s economic vulnerability, which in turn heightens their vulnerability to sexual harassment on the job. Women who are survivors of domestic violence often feel compelled to tolerate inappropriate behavior from customers so as not to jeopardize their income and employers are unlikely to fire employees who work for fear of upsetting a paying customer. Women’s lack of economic power in these workplaces perpetuates the already pervasive culture of intimidation in industries that employ large numbers of tipped workers.

The Raise the Wage Act is critically needed to advance women’s economic security and dignity in the workplace. The Economic Policy Institute estimates that increasing the federal minimum wage to $15 by 2024 would give 33 million working women a raise, including 41 percent of Black working women, 38 percent of working Latinas, 29 percent of white working women, and 18 percent of Asian working women.

Women and people of color have been left behind by our economy and our policies far too often, for far too long. Adopting the Raise the Wage Act would mark a crucial step toward ensuring they can work with equity, dignity, and safety. There is no more urgent issue facing Congress than by making real, concrete progress in ensuring all women receive adequate pay.

We urge you to prioritize the Raise the Wage Act as a top priority of the 116th Congress by swiftly passing this legislation.

Sincerely,

9to5 National Association of Working Women; 9to5 Georgia; A Better Balance; Abortion Access Front; ACCESS; African American Health Alliance; All-Options; Amara Legal Center; American Association of University Women; American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); American Federation of Teachers, APL-CIO; APT Local 1766 (Union of Rutgers Administrators); American Medical Student Association; American Psychological Association; Center for American Progress; Center for Economic & Demographic Action; (ADA); Arizona Coalition to End Sexual & Domestic Violence; Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance; APL-CIO; Black Women’s Roundtable; Bread for the World; MS Black Women’s Roundtable; California Women’s Law Center; Center for American Progress; Center for Frontline Retail; Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP); Center for Popular Democracy; Center for Popular Democracy Area Collaborative; Citizen Action of New York; Clearinghouse on Women’s Issues; Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW); California Capital Chapter, CLUW; Capital Area Chapter, CLUW; Chesapeake Bay Chapter, CLUW; Chicago Chapter, CLUW; Cleveland Chapter, CLUW; Colorado Chapter, CLUW; Connecticut Chapter, CLUW; Delaware Chapter, CLUW; Detroit Area Chapter, CLUW; District of Columbia Chapter, CLUW; Florida Chapter, CLUW; Greater Oklahoma City Chapter, CLUW; Houston Chapter, CLUW;Kate Mullaney Chapter, CLUW; King County Chapter, CLUW; Lorain County Chapter, CLUW; Los Angeles Chapter, CLUW; Metro-Detroit Chapter, CLUW; Metropolitan District of Columbia Chapter, CLUW; Missouri Chapter, CLUW; New Jersey Chapter, CLUW; Greater Philadelphia Chapter, CLUW; Philadelphia CLUW; San Diego Chapter, CLUW; San Francisco Chapter, CLUW; Southwestern Pennsylvania Chapter, CLUW; St. Louis Chapter, CLUW; Western New York Chapter, CLUW; Western Virginia Chapter, CLUW; Coalition on Human Needs; Color of Change; Connecticut Women’s Education and Legal Defense Fund (CWEALD); The CTR Project; Poverty Project at the Institute for Policy Studies; Day One; Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment & Appeals Project; Economic Opportunity Institute; Women’s Legal Defense & Education Fund; Jobs With Justice; Jobs With Justice; Justice for Migrant Women; Kentucky Equal Justice Center; Labor Council for a People’s Defense & Arizona People’s Action; Las Hermanas USA; Laundry Workers Center; Legal Momentum, The Women’s Legal Defense and Education Fund; Maine Women’s Law Center; Massachusetts Jobs With Justice; Milwaukee Area Service & Hospitality Workers Organization (MASH); Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence; MNCASA; Moms Demand Action, Triad North Carolina; MomsRising; NAACP, NARAL Pro-Choice, North Carolina; National Association to End Sexual Violence; National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum (NAPAWF); National Association of Social Workers, Massachusetts Chapter; National Center for Lesbian Rights; National Coalition for the Homeless; National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Central Ohio Chapter; National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Houston Chapter; National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Queens Metropolitan Chapter; National Committee on Pay Equity; National Council of Jewish Women; National Council of Jewish Women, Arizona; National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Cleveland; National Committee of Jewish Women, Greater Kansas City Chapter; National Council of Jewish Women, Grand Prairie Arlington Chapter; National Council of Jewish Women, Harris County, Texas; National Council of Jewish Women, Pennsylvania; National Domestic Workers Alliance; National Employment Law Project; National Employment Lawyers Association; National Immigration Law Center; National Institute for Reproductive Health Access; National LGBTQ Taskforce; National Network for AIDS Education; National Network for Anti-Poverty Funds; National Network of Abortion Funds; National Organization for Women (NOW);
NOW, Louisiana; NOW, North Carolina; NOW, Raleigh; NOW, Southwest Pennsylvania; NOW, Triad North Carolina.

National Partnership for Women & Families: National Women's Law Center of the National Partnership for Women's Health Network; NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice; Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence; New Mexico Women's Sexual Assault Programs; New Voices for Reproductive Justice; New York Union Child Care Coalition; North Carolina State AFL-CIO; North Carolina Women United.

Nurses for Sexual and Reproductive Health; Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence; Ohio Domestic Violence Network; Ohio Campaign Coalition for Reproductive Choice; Oklahoma Women's Coalition; Organization United for Respect; Oxfam America; Path Ways PA; Pennsylvania NOW; People For the American Way.

PHENOM (Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts); Physicians for Reproductive Health; PL-USA: Paid Leave for the United States; Power New York; Project IRENE; Public Justice Center; PWN-USA; Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition; Rural Jobs Coalition; Shriver Center on Poverty Law; Solace Crisis Treatment Center; Tennessee Valley Coalition to End Homelessness; Tewa Women United; The Women's Law Center of Maryland; Union for Reform Judaism; Unitarian Universalist Mass Action Network; United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministry.

United Democracy Women of MD, Inc.: URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity; V.I. Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Prevention; Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence; Voices for Progress; Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs; Washington State Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs; West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy; Western Center on Law and Poverty.

Women & Girls Foundation of Southwest Pennsylvania; Women Employed; Women Lawyers of Sacramento; Women of Reform Judaism; Women's Law Project; Women's Right to Life; Women's Medical Fund; Pennsylvania; WomenRising, Inc.; Working Washington/Fair Work Center; Workforce Investment Councils of Illinois.

WV FREE: Yellowhammer Fund; YWCA USA; YWCA, Dayton; ZERO TO THREE.

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to give more than 33 million deserving Americans a raise by voting for the Raise the Wage Act.

Today, a single mother with two children working full-time at $7.25 an hour is living well below the Federal poverty line. We can fix that by voting to give her a raise.

Let’s do the same for the rest of America by passing the Raise the Wage Act. It is long overdue.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), the chair of the Committee on Small Business.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am from New York, and I rise in support of the Raise the Wage Act of 2019 for workers in my district and workers everywhere, particularly rural America.

The Raise the Wage Act is a long overdue minimum wage increase that will lift wages for millions of Americans and boost the small business economy.

Today, under the current minimum wage of just $7.25 per hour, American workers and their families are living on the margins. They spend nights at the dinner table having to decide whether they’ll send their child’s school trip or groceries for the week.

If we are to build a better economy for all Americans, we must ensure that our workers can make a good living and have a good life.

A poll after poll shows that small business owners support raising the minimum wage. This is because doing so has been proven to help small firms better retain employees who, in turn, are more productive and higher performing.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a sign-on statement from Business for a Fair Minimum Wage.

BUSINESS FOR A FAIR MINIMUM WAGE

The federal minimum wage was last raised in 2009 to $7.25 per hour. As a business community, we support gradually raising the federal minimum wage to $15 by 2024. It’s good for business, good for customers and good for our economy.

Workers are also customers. Today’s $7.25 minimum wage—just $15,080 a year for full-time workers—doesn’t even cover the basics. Raising the minimum wage puts money in the pockets of people who most need to spend it, increasing sales at businesses and boosting the economy.

Raising the minimum wage makes good business sense. Low pay typically means high turnover. Raising the minimum wage pays off in lower employee turnover, reduced training and turnover costs, lower error rates and increased productivity and better customer service. Employees often make the difference between repeat customers or lost customers.

Raising the minimum wage is smart policy. It will reduce the strain on the safety net caused by wages that people can’t live on. It will help level the playing field for businesses and the consumers and the consumers spending businesses depend on to thrive.

ABOUT 1,000 SIGNERS AND COUNTING AS OF JULY 7, 2019

Holly Sklar, CEO, Business for a Fair Minimum Wage; Jennifer Altman, Motivational Bar-

HOLLY SKLAR, CEO, BUSINESS FOR A FAIR MINIMUM WAGE
Owner, Natural Healing, Montgomery, AL; Johnny Weatherspoon, Owner, Style Connection Barber Shop, Tuscaloosa, AL; LaTessa Wells, Owner, Salon Ambience, Tuscaloosa, AL; J. Novak Owens, Owner, The Little Looker, Birmingham, AL; Tim Williamson, Owner, Carter Drug, Selma, AL; Kandice Wright, Owner, Hair By Design, Selma, AL; Bradley Wyatt, Owner, Copper Top, Tuscaloosa, AL; Blake Ralston, Owner, Ralston Agency, Fort Smith, AR; Steve Svenson, Owner, Svenson's Deli & Catering, Fort Smith, AR; Daniel Aguila, Owner, 480 Barber Shop, Chandler, AZ; Janice Brian, Owner, Alley Cats Haircutting Salon, Flagstaff, AZ; Malcolm Bates, Owner, F&J Antiques Retro and Vintage, Flagstaff, AZ.

Paula Beltran, Owner, V.I. Alterations & Tailoring, Chatsworth, CA; Uttal Burnett, Make-U-Mobile, Mesa, AZ; Eric Cady, Co-Owner, Chupacabra Taproom, Mesa, AZ; Francisco Carlos, Owner, Cabinets by Design, Phoenix, AZ; Cartiey Carter, Owner, 24K Hair Spa, Phoenix, AZ; Jorge Castillo, Co-Owner, The Gaming Zone, Tempe, AZ; Alison Chandler, Co-Owner, Noble Beast Pet Market, Phoenix, AZ; Abel Chavez, Owner, Chavez Barber Shop, Tempe, AZ; Shang Syun Chiu, Owner, Dealer Electronics, Mesa, AZ; Natalie Couture, Owner, InSpaCe Masseuse, Mesa, AZ; Kimberly Clarke, Owner, Solstice Intimates, Tempe, AZ; Mark Cosmas, Owner, iRun, Phoenix, AZ; Rich Cooper, Unique Pianos, Phoenix, AZ; Lauren Danuser, Owner, Local Nomad, Phoenix, AZ; Daniel De Hoyos, Owner, The Lumberyard, Mesa, AZ; Jim Friedlander, Owner, EILEEN FISHER, Scottsdale, AZ; Alfredo Flores, Owner, Watch & Jewelry Repair, Tempe, AZ; Farrell Friedlander, Professional Affiliates of Arizona, LLC, Scottsdale, AZ; Justin Fultz, Owner, Let Us Floor You, Inc., Chandler, AZ; Alisa Glaab, Co-Owner, Huf T Factory, Flagstaff, AZ; Kristin Garcia, Owner, Purge Love Peace Rage Room, Chandler, AZ; Brenda Hackman, Co-Owner, EmbroidMe, Phoenix, AZ; Tim Hackman, Co-Owner, EmbroidMe, Phoenix, AZ; Billy Halton, Co-Owner, Casa Grande Dry Cleaning, Casa Grande, AZ.

Eddie Hargrove, Hummex Express, Tempe, AZ; Lamar Harris, Co-Owner, Get Sassy Beauty Supply, Chandler, AZ; Nicholas Harrison, Owner, UPGames, Mesa, AZ; Fahima Hassan, Owner, Kyher Halal, Phoenix, AZ; Dionne Hauke, Owner, Ziggie's Music, Phoenix, AZ; Jason Remann, Owner, Kitchen of the Quarter, Phoenix, AZ; Gabriel Hopkins, Owner, Food Diva AZ, Chandler, AZ; Gabrielle Hopkins, Owner, Wild Elk Den, Chandler, AZ; Jeanette Housner, Owner, Dior Jewelry, Yuma, AZ; Robert Jordon, Owner, Jessica Jones, Owner, Caveman Printing & Apparel, Mesa, AZ; Brad Keeling, Owner, Maroney's Cleaners & Laundry, Phoenix, AZ.

Brad Keeling, President, Organicare, Phoenix, AZ; Danyelle Kimbell, Owner, Just In Time Hair Design, Chandler, AZ; Anthony Kyhn, Owner, Salon Red Cardia, Phoenix, AZ; Adele LaVoie, Owner, French Method, Phoenix, AZ; Cenobio Lopez, Owner, NuYou Life Center, Phoenix, AZ; Alfredo Make-U-Mobile, Mesa, AZ; Eric Cady, Co-Owner, Chupacabra Taproom, Mesa, AZ; Francisco Carlos, Owner, Cabinets by Design, Phoenix, AZ; Cartiey Carter, Owner, 24K Hair Spa, Phoenix, AZ; Jorge Castillo, Co-Owner, The Gaming Zone, Tempe, AZ; Alison Chandler, Co-Owner, Noble Beast Pet Market, Phoenix, AZ; Abel Chavez, Owner, Chavez Barber Shop, Tempe, AZ; Shang Syun Chiu, Owner, Dealer Electronics, Mesa, AZ; Natalie Couture, Owner, InSpaCe Masseuse, Mesa, AZ; Kimberly Clarke, Owner, Solstice Intimates, Tempe, AZ; Mark Cosmas, Owner, iRun, Phoenix, AZ; Rich Cooper, Unique Pianos, Phoenix, AZ; Lauren Danuser, Owner, Local Nomad, Phoenix, AZ; Daniel De Hoyos, Owner, The Lumberyard, Mesa, AZ; Jim Friedlander, Professional Affiliates of Arizona, LLC, Scottsdale, AZ; Justin Fultz, Owner, Let Us Floor You, Inc., Chandler, AZ; Alisa Glaab, Co-Owner, Huf T Factory, Flagstaff, AZ; Kristin Garcia, Owner, Purge Love Peace Rage Room, Chandler, AZ; Brenda Hackman, Co-Owner, EmbroidMe, Phoenix, AZ; Tim Hackman, Co-Owner, EmbroidMe, Phoenix, AZ; Billy Halton, Co-Owner, Casa Grande Dry Cleaning, Casa Grande, AZ.

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Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAuro), the chair of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. DELAuro. Mr. Speaker, let’s be clear. Since Franklin Roosevelt, the Federal Government has been increasing the Federal wage. Don’t let them get away with this hogwash about what we do and what we don’t do here.

Wages for the top 1 percent have grown 150 percent since 1979. Wages for middle-class families and working families have stagnated. Their wages do not keep up with the skyrocketing costs of healthcare, prescription drugs, childcare, housing, and a college education. This is the single biggest economic challenge of our time. So, today, full-time, year-round work at the Federal minimum wage of $7.25 leaves a family of three below the Federal poverty line. It is unacceptable, because working people have more than earned a raise.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, if the minimum wage increased equal to the increases in workers’ productivity, it would be more than $20 an hour.

Congress needs to make this right. Clearly, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle do not respect the dignity of the work these folks do.

Mr. Speaker, let us pass the Raise the Minimum Wage Act. Working people are doing their jobs. Let us do ours.

I include in the RECORD a letter from the American Federation of Teachers.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues from Georgia said, the Democrats want to make the American people think that they, as agents of the Federal Government, are giving them something by raising the minimum wage. That is not true.

Small businesses, families, workers, and the economy at large will all suffer debilitating loss if this bill is passed.

Forcing our Nation’s job creators to raise the minimum wage arbitrarily around the country by 107 percent will hurt the very people this ill-advised legislation is alleged to help.

The Republicans and localities with large minimum wage hikes are clear and have shown that workers and employers are punished by these risky schemes.

Apparently, House Democrats have missed the fact that wages are already on the rise. Without unemployment near a 50-year low, the competition for employees is driving wages up.

Instead of stifling our booming economy by forcing employers to implement a crippling, mandated wage hike, the should advance legislation that empowers communities, creates opportunities, and opens doors for workers.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAuro), the chair of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. DELAuro. Mr. Speaker, let’s be clear. Since Franklin Roosevelt, the Federal Government has been increasing the Federal wage. Don’t let them get away with this hogwash about what we do and what we don’t do here.
who average $13.47 per hour; child care workers, who earn an average of $10.18 per hour; and home healthcare workers, who on average receive $10.87 per hour. With higher wages, more individuals would be best able to afford food, clothing, housing and other necessities, which, in turn, would support local businesses and economic growth.

Too many working families in the United States are being forced to depend on poverty-level wages. Congress can help strengthen our economy and lift families out of poverty by raising the federal minimum wage.

Thank you for your introduction of H.R. 582.

Sincerely,

RANDI WEINGARTEN,
President.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, let me first thank Chairman SCOTT for yielding me 1 minute. Mr. Chairman, incredible, and brilliant leadership.

I include in the RECORD a letter from The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights expressing their strong support for H.R. 582.


VOTE RECOMMENDATION: SUPPORT THE RAISE THE WAGE ACT OF 2019

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 200 national organizations to promote and protect the civil and human rights of all persons in the United States, we write to express our strong support for the Raise the Wage Act of 2019 (H.R. 582). This important legislation would gradually raise the federal minimum wage to $15 an hour by 2025, index it to median federal wages, and ensure that all tipped workers, working people with disabilities, and young people at least the federal minimum wage. Passage of the Raise the Wage Act is a top legislative priority of our coalition. We urge you to vote YES on any Motion to Reconsider (MTR) in connection with this legislation. The Leadership Conference will score both of these votes in our voting record for the 116th Congress.

At the 1863 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, one of the founders of The Leadership Conference, Black labor leader A. Philip Randolph, noted, “Nor is the goal of our civil rights revolution merely the passage of civil rights legislation. Yes, we want all public positions open to the people, but those accommodations will mean little to those who cannot afford to use them.

This week, the House of Representatives has the opportunity to champion working people by passing the Raise the Wage Act of 2019. In February 2019, I testified at a hearing held by the U.S. House Committee on Education & Labor entitled “Gradually Raising the Minimum Wage to $15: Good for Workers, Good for Businesses, and Good for the Economy.” What I said then remains true today: low-wage working people are overdue for a raise. For decades, wages for most people in America have stagnated while productivity has increased. This has been true for low-wage earners. Congress has not raised the federal minimum wage of $7.25 an hour since 2007. And the tipped minimum wage has been stuck at $2.13 an hour since 1991.

Raising the federal minimum wage is a racial and gender justice issue. The National Women’s Law Center has noted that women make up nearly two-thirds of those earning the federal minimum wage. Women of color are disproportionately represented in this workforce. As with the tipped minimum wage, the subminimum wage under Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act that allows companies to pay workers with disabilities working in segregated settings to be paid less than the minimum wage leaves this community vulnerable to poverty and exploitation. The National Disability Rights Network believes that “sheltered workshops have replaced institutions in many states as the new housing warehousing and the new favored locations where people with disabilities are sent to occupy their days.” Enacted in 1938, Section 14(c) reflects the days of the subminimum wage and ensure that no one works for pennies in America. The subminimum wage that tipped workers received in the era of slavery.

The practice of tipping proliferated in the United States after the Civil War when the restaurant and hospitality industry, exemplified by the Pullman Company, the tip system.
24 is 16.1 percent, which is higher than the national rate of 12.3 percent. Existing law allows employers to pay youth under age 20 a subminimum wage of $4.25 for the first 90 days of employment. While rarely used, this subminimum wage prohibits youth from being active consumers in their communities, saving money, or achieving true economic independence. The Raise the Wage Act will benefit millions of low-wage workers by increasing their income to a wage that would allow them to meet their financial needs.

Youth, like many others in this country, use their wages to support themselves and their families. For example, young people use their earnings to buy school supplies and assist family with buying food and contributing to college costs. Some use their wages to support their own children, pay rent, and buy other basic necessities. According to the Census Bureau, approximately 27 percent of young adults with children live in poverty. Low wages make it increasingly difficult for these parents to appropriately care for their children.

Congress has not raised the minimum wage in over a decade. Studies show that one in nine U.S. workers are paid wages that leave them in poverty, even when working full time and year-round. The economy is leaving too many people behind—including youth and young adults. Because poverty is structural and caused by systems and policies—like discrimination, segregation, and low-wage labor—the policies have an important role in addressing it.

Congress must act to raise the wage because it's the equitable thing to do for workers and it's a financial imperative—providing individuals with the means to meet their basic financial needs. By raising the minimum wage and eliminating the subminimum wage for youth, Congress would support young people in becoming more economically secure to help provide for their families, pay rent, and buy other basic necessities. We urge Congress to pass the Raise the Wage Act for the good of our country's economy and the youth who will play a critical role now and in our future.

Sincerely,

National Organizations: America’s Promise Alliance; Center for Law and Social Policy; Heartland Alliance; National Childcare最高; Opportunity Youth United; Project 2; SparkAction; Strive International; YouthBuild USA.

State and Local: Arizona: Opportunities for Youth, YouthBuild Arizona; California: City of Albany, Department of Recreation; Pennsylvania: E3, LLC.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. The Speaker, the minimum wage has been stuck at $7.25 for the past 10 years. During that time, the cost of housing, food, childcare, education, all of this has risen higher and higher, but the minimum wage has been stuck. This week, the Joint Economic Committee, where I serve as vice chair, released a report on the Federal minimum wage, and it begins with this chart. It shows that in 1968, a full-time worker earning $7.25 a month would take home roughly $21,000 a year. Now, 15 years later, a worker working full-time making minimum wage earns only $15,000 a year in the same dollar value of $7.25 per hour. The $15,000 in real 2018 dollars. This is a 30 percent drop.

A full-time worker earning $7.25 minimum wage earns roughly $1,250 per month. That is not enough to cover even half of the monthly expenses of an average family, which total roughly $3,000. It is not enough to live on, let alone, to support a family.

Now, some critics say the minimum wage is earned by teenagers, but that is wrong. More than half of those working at or below the minimum wage are above 25 years of age. It ignores the fact that the typical minimum wage worker earns half of their family’s income; as a result, boosting the wage will support millions of children and families across our Nation.

Workers with more money in their pockets will spend it, stimulating the economy.

It is important to end the gender gap, because half the people working for minimum wage are women.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentlewoman.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I just want to applaud the hard work from Virginia, Bossy SCOTT, for his selfless and bold work. He faced many obstacles.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I yield the gentlewoman such time as she may require.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge a very strong vote on this to support the minimum wage and to get millions of workers the raise they so justly deserve. Over 33 million Americans deserve this raise.

This chart shows it all. Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I compliment my colleague on his sense of humor, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 582, the “Raise the Wage Act.”

With the passage of this bill, the House of Representatives will take another step in making good on its commitment to working families and individuals to put their economic interests first and attach the highest priority to making the real economy work for ordinary Americans who work hard, play by the rules, and are struggling to get by through no fault of their own.

We Democrats promised to chart a new direction for America if the voters entrusted us with the majority. They did and with our votes today in support of H.R. 582, we are making good on our promise.

Mr. Speaker, before I discuss the importance of this bill in detail, I wish to commend Mr. Chairman SCOTT, Speaker PELOSI, Majority Leader HOYER, Majority Whip CLYBURN, and the rest of the Democratic leadership, as well as my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus, which I am so abyly by Congressman BASS.

Because of their resolve and visionary leadership, more than 27 million workers, and as many as 34 million, will soon receive a long overdue raise.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the Record statistics relating to the 18th Congressional District of Texas.

TEXAS 18TH DISTRICT
Share of workers affected: 41.3%
Total workers affected: 155,800
Total wage increase for all affected workers (2018): $1,600
Change in avg. annual earnings among all $4,100 year-round affected workers (2018): $1,100
Percent change in avg. annual earnings among all year-round affected workers: 18.6%
Ages 16 to 24—Total workers affected: 41,400
Ages 16 to 24—Share affected: 81.8%
Ages 25 to 39—Total workers affected: 63,900
Ages 25 to 39—Share affected: 41.0%
Ages 40 to 54—Total workers affected: 33,100
Ages 40 to 54—Share affected: 29.4%
Ages 55 or older—Total workers affected: 17,400
Ages 55 or older—Share affected: 29.8%
Men—Total workers affected: 72,000
Men—Share affected: 35.1%
Women—Total workers affected: 83,900
Women—Share affected: 48.5%
Asian or other—Total workers affected: 7,600
Asian or other—Share affected: 29.2%
Black—Total workers affected: 49,100
Black—Share affected: 48.3
White—Total workers affected: 10,000
White—Share affected: 15.7%
Hispanic—Total workers affected: 89,100
Hispanic—Share affected: 53.2%
Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, apart from complexes, local stores, local clothing stores, churches, and nonprofits benefit from the generosity of individuals who now have a decent wage.

I am standing with working people and unions. I am standing with the American people and 41.3 percent of my district.

Let us raise the minimum wage. That is the right thing to do. It is for our children.

Mr. Speaker, as an original cosponsor, I rise in strong support of H.R. 582, the “Raise the Wage Act.”

With the passage of this bill, the House of Representatives will take another step in making good on its commitment to working families and individuals to put their economic interests first and attach the highest priority to making the real economy work for ordinary Americans who work hard, play by the rules, and are struggling to get by through no fault of their own.

We Democrats promised to chart a new direction for America if the voters entrusted us with the majority. They did and with our votes today in support of H.R. 582, we are making good on our promise.

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Because of their resolve and visionary leadership, more than 27 million workers, and as many as 34 million, will soon receive a long overdue raise.
What a difference an election makes.

H.R. 582 helps the most deserving American families by raising the minimum wage from $7.25 to $15.00 over six years, and indexing increases after that to median wage growth.

Mr. Speaker, did you know that the value of the current minimum wage represents a 51-year low?

Had the minimum wage kept pace with inflation, it would be $10.15 today, nearly $3 more per hour than it is currently.

If the wages of that worker had kept up with the pace of productivity growth, the minimum wage would be $19.33, over $4,000 per year.

It is scandalous, Mr. Speaker, that a person can work full-time, 40 hours per week, for 52 weeks, earning the minimum wage and would gross just $15,000, which is $6,100 below the $21,100 needed to lift a family of three out of poverty.

In 2018, the average CEO was paid 1,140 times the amount earned yearly by a minimum wage worker.

Mr. Speaker, since 2009 the cost of college tuition has risen more than 40 percent and health insurance premiums have skyrocketed by 41 percent.

But during that time, the minimum wage has not increased one cent.

That is unconscionable and downright un-American.

H.R. 582, the Raise the Wage Act, will change this sorry state of affairs.

Mr. Speaker, today more than ever America’s hard-working families are feeling squeezed, living paycheck to paycheck.

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that prices at the pump, skyrocketing health care costs and the rising cost of college in the face of falling or flat wages, are squeezing hard-working Texans in my Houston-based Congressional District as they struggle to make ends meet.

That is why I support increasing the minimum wage.

For Texas workers the basic cost of living is rising: It is only fair that the pay for hard-working Texans does too.

Mr. Speaker, 29 states and the District of Columbia have increased their minimum wage above the federal minimum of $7.25 per hour, but regrettably my home state of Texas is not one of them.

For approximately 4.7 million Texans and nearly 155,800 working persons in the 18th Congressional District of Texas, passage of the Raise the Wage Act would bring immediate, tangible, and substantial economic benefits.

Increasing the minimum wage would give these families a much needed additional $4,100 a year to meet critical needs such as rent, health care, food and child care.

The minimum wage is $15.00 per hour over the next six years will not allow workers to live as large as the typical CEO, who now earns 1,140 times more than a minimum wage worker, but at least it will allow these low-wage workers to make a little better life for themselves and their families.

Raising the minimum wage will benefit working families:

1. Benefit 19 million children whose parents will get a raise;

2. Increase worker productivity by incentivizing people to work harder;

3. Reduce the gender wage gap, as women make up a disproportionate share of minimum wage workers; and

4. Reduce the rate at which renters default on their leases by giving families more money to spend on their household budgets.

Increasing the minimum wage will also provide a boost to the economy, since lower wage workers are more likely than other income groups to spend extra earnings immediately and researchers estimate that a 10 percent increase in the minimum wage would increase sales by around $2 billion each year.

Mr. Speaker, the earnings of minimum wage workers are crucial to their families’ well-being since the lowest wages bring home more than half (51.9 percent) of his or her family’s weekly earnings.

Raising the minimum wage helps women and workers of color.

More than 48,000, or 41 percent, of African American workers and 89,100, or 53.2 percent of Hispanic workers in my congressional district would get a raise under the Raise the Wage Act.

The Raise the Wage Act would substantially increase the purchasing power of 83,900, or 48.5 percent, of low-wage women workers in my district.

Since women make up nearly two-thirds of minimum wage workers, the Raise the Wage Act would provide the greatest benefit to workers and families of color and women.

Single mothers would benefit disproportionately from an increase—single mothers are 10.4 percent of workers affected by an increase, but they make up only 5.3 percent of the overall workforce.

Approximately 1.8 million Texas parents with children under 18 would benefit.

Contrary to popular myths and urban legends, adults make up the largest share of workers (80 percent) who would benefit from a minimum wage increase.

More than half (54 percent) of workers who would benefit from a minimum wage increase work full time and another third (34.5 percent) work between 20 and 34 hours per week.

Minimum wage increases benefit disadvantaged workers, and women are the largest group of beneficiaries:

1. More than 23 million (66 percent) of workers who would benefit from an increase to $15.00 are women.

2. Approximately 11.2 million (28 percent) of workers who would benefit from an increase to $15.00 are the parents of 14.4 million children, and of these, 5.4 million (48 percent) are single parents.

3. In my District in Texas, 41.3 percent of the workers would benefit.

A disproportionate share of persons of color would benefit from a minimum wage increase:

1. African Americans represent 11.1 percent of the total workforce but are 15.3 percent of workers affected by an increase.

2. Similarly, 13.4 percent of the total workforce is Hispanic, but Hispanics are 19.7 percent of workers affected by an increase.

The benefits of an increase minimum wage disproportionately help those working households at the bottom of the income scale.

Although households in the bottom 20 percent receive only 2.1 percent of national income, 38.1 percent of the benefits of a minimum wage increase to $15.00 would go to these workers.

Thirty-six percent of such workers actually contribute 100 percent of their family’s earnings.

A minimum wage increase would help reverse the trend of declining real wages for low-wage workers.

Between 2009 and 2018, the minimum wage lost 29 percent of its real value.

In contrast, between 1989 and 1997, the year it was raised to $5.15, the minimum wage was raised four times and recovered over one-third of the value it lost in the 1980s.

Income inequality has been increasing, in part, because of the declining real value of the minimum wage.

Mr. Speaker, the opponents of the minimum wage often claim that increasing the wage will cost jobs and harm the economy.

Of course, Mr. Speaker there is no credible evidence to support such claims.

The truth is that following the most recent increase in the minimum wage in 2009, and the rescue of the economy by President Barack Obama after the Great Recession, the country went on to enjoy one of the most sustained periods of economic prosperity in history.

Mr. Speaker, studies have shown that the best performing small businesses are located in states with the highest minimum wages.

The job growth for small businesses in states with a minimum wage higher than the federal level was 9.4 percent compared to a 6.6 percent growth in states where the federal level prevailed.

So much for the discredited notion that raising the minimum wage harms the economy; it does not.

But raising the minimum wage helps the economy by increasing the purchasing power of those most need the money, which is far more than can be said of the Republicans’ devotion to cutting taxes for billionaires and multimillionaires.

Mr. Speaker, Americans overwhelmingly side with progressive principles of rewarding hard work with a living wage.

A post-election Hil-Harris poll found that 82 percent of Americans favored the hourly minimum wage and a clear majority, 55 percent, favored increasing the minimum wage to $15.00, while only 14 percent favored keeping it at the current $7.25 wage rate.

Mr. Speaker, it is time the Americans we represent a long-overdue pay raise by increasing the minimum wage to $15.00 over six years and indexing future increases to the growth in median wages so that a full-time worker making the minimum wage can afford the basic essentials, which is not the case today anywhere in America.

I urge all members to support this necessary and timely legislation.

Vote aye on H.R. 582, the “Raise the Wage Act.”

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I do take offense at anyone who characterizes Republicans as not caring about children, not caring about women, not caring about people of color, and not caring about people in poverty. We care for all people, too, Mr. Speaker, and I want to make that very clear. We will disagree philosophically, but we care about people, and we love our fellow Americans.

Democrats continue to point to figures of potential wage increases in our congressional districts, but not once have they acknowledged that CBO estimates that as many as three jobs could
be lost for every one person pulled out of poverty.

So will the Democrats who vote for this bill come to our congressional districts and answer for the jobs lost?

Will they look at the women and young people and those without a high school degree who will face the brunt of the job losses from this bill in our congressional districts?

The harm inflicted by this bill far outweighs the benefits. We should not inflict that pain on our constituents just to satisfy a non-socially relevant, ideological promise. The economy is growing, wages are rising, and opportunities are increasing. We should not dampen this progress with any kind of policy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this costly, job-killing bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters from the following organizations in support of the Raise the Wage Act: the National Employment Law Project, cosigned by 500 other organizations, AFSCME, the National Women's Law Center, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, National Urban League, Disability Coalition, healthcare groups, Interreligious Working Group on Domestic Human Needs, First Focus Campaign for Children, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, Oxford, Americans for Democratic Action, National Women's Law Center, Lawyers Association, and a recent article in Politico by Reverend William Barber.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The National Employment Law Project (NELP), a non-profit organization that advocates on behalf of workers in low-wage jobs, enthusiastically supports the Raise the Wage Act of 2019. I urge you to vote Yes on the bill and No on any Motion to Reconsider when the measure comes later this week.

Last month, our nation marked a shameful milestone when the longest period passed without an increase since 1938 enactment of the minimum wage. Nearly ten years have passed since the last increase to $7.25 on July 24, 2009. The cost of wage stagnation for workers making wages at or near the federal minimum wage is inexcusable in a country with the collective wealth we enjoy and with an economy that is booming for those who already live comfortable lives.

The Raise the Wage Act will gradually raise the federal minimum wage to $15 by 2025, gradually eliminate the subminimum wages for tipped, disabled and youth workers, and raise the index the minimum wage so that it rises as all other wages rise.

If signed into law, this Act will not only dramatically decrease poverty and income inequality. By phasing out subminimum wages and restoring the value of the federal minimum wage, this Act will also help address the systemically lower wages disproportionately impacting people of color, women and disabled workers as a result of the structural inequalities baked into our current federal minimum wage policy.

The Raise the Wage Act will claim that it will result in job loss, these prophecies of doom have no basis in fact. Just two weeks ago, a detailed and rigorous study of minimum wage increases since 2005, including the first increases that went to $15, demonstrated that there are no discernable negative employment or hours worked. Rather, it found that minimum wage increases lead to substantial declines in household and child poverty. Further, the increase in the minimum wage also leads to a reduction in suicides, a decrease in criminal recidivism, improved maternal and child health, increased consumer spending, increased worker productivity, lower turnover in jobs, and rise in employment of older workers.

It’s no wonder that the minimum wage enjoys such broad support, with polling showing 65% for a $15 federal minimum wage even in battleground Congressional districts. We see that workers who move to raise wages, fight income inequality, reduce poverty, and eradicate at least some measure of racial, gender and disability discrimination that is inherent in our federal minimum wage policy. It is also an important step in making sure that working people achieve a more equitable share of the rewards the economy produces.

We hope that you will stand with the nearly 35 million workers who will receive a raise if the Raise the Wage Act is passed and vote Yes on the bill and No on any Motion to Reconsider that is offered.

Sincerely,
Christine L. Owens, Executive Director

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I am writing in support of the “Raise the Wage Act of 2019” (H.R. 582). This legislation would have a critical impact on millions of workers by gradually lifting the current federal minimum wage.

The current federal minimum wage rate of $7.25 an hour makes it very difficult for workers to meet basic family needs. The last federal minimum wage increase was in 2009. This unjustifiable delay contributes to wage stagnation. Nearly one minimum-wage worker earning the federal minimum wage makes barely $15,000 per year. A worker supporting two kids on an equivalent salary can barely make enough to reach the poverty level. Taking that into consideration with the fact that most minimum-wage jobs rarely include health insurance coverage or child-care assistance, it should be easy to understand why working families in America deserve better. As a result of wage stagnation and income disparity nearly 40 percent of American families struggle with basic needs.

Raising the minimum wage lifts the wages of low-wage workers to raise the wages of all workers. H.R. 582 allows for a raise in the federal minimum wage to $5.55 this year and increases over the next six years until it reaches $15 an hour at the end of that period. The minimum wage will adjust each year to keep pace with growth in typical workers’ wages. The legislation also immediately phase out the out-dated subminimum wage for tipped workers, which has been frozen at a meager $2.13 since 1991 and sunsets the subminimum wage for tipped, disabled and youth workers. And they are particularly harmed by a $7.25 federal minimum wage that has not gone up in a decade—and by a $2.13 tipped minimum wage that has been frozen for an astonishing 28 years.

The Raise the Wage Act will raise the federal minimum wage from $7.25 an hour by 2025, then index the minimum wage so that it continues to rise along with wages overall. It will also end unfair exclusions for tipped workers, people with disabilities, and youth so that they, too, can benefit from a decent minimum wage. The Economic Policy Institute (EPI) estimates that the bill (as introduced) would give nearly one in three working women a raise, including 41 percent of Black working women, 53 percent of working Latinas, 29 percent of white working women, and 18 percent of Asian working women. Because women are the majority of workers who would see their pay go up, wage gaps would likely narrow as well; indeed, the EPI research shows that women who work full time, year round in states with a minimum wage of at least $10 per hour face a gender wage gap that is one-third smaller than the wage gap across states with a $7.25 minimum wage. And in “One Fair Wage” states where employers already have to pay their tipped workers the regular minimum wage, tips are now higher because the tip rate for women tipped workers is lower—and wage gaps for women overall are smaller—
than in states that follow the $2.13 federal standard. One Fair Wage also ensures that women in tipped jobs have a paycheck they can count on, making them less vulnerable to the short-term, from job to job, nature of work that can force them to rely on tips for nearly all of their income.

A $15 minimum wage will make a meaningful difference for millions across the country who are struggling to put food on the table, access the healthcare they need, and support themselves and their families. But it is still a modest wage relative to the expenses that women and their families face every day, no matter where they live in the United States. According to EPI, by 2025, a single worker without children will need at least full-time earnings at $15 an hour ($31,200 annually) to meet basic needs, and women in costlier areas and those supporting families will need more. By establishing a $15 federal minimum wage by 2025 and phasing out harmful exclusions, the Raise the Wage Act gradually reaches a single wage floor that will benefit working people and our economy nationwide.

We strongly urge you to reject any amendments or alternatives that would establish a regional minimum wage at the federal level, which would leave women of color behind and further exacerbate disparities. The Raise the Wage Act is critically needed to address. And we urge you equally strongly to reject any and all carveouts for certain employers—such as tipped workers, young workers, and workers with disabilities—who have been harmed by exclusionary policies for generations.

Women of color have been left behind by our economy and our policies far too often, for far too long. Adopting the Raise the Wage Act will mark a vital important step toward ensuring they can work with equity, dignity, and safety. We urge you to pass the Raise the Wage Act on the House floor and reject any alternative, or any amendments that would reduce its strength or scope.

Sincerely,

EMILY J. MARTIN,
Vice President for Education & Workplace Justice,

LAWYERS’ COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS UNDER LAW,

WASHINGTON, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE, On behalf of the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law (hereinafter “Lawyers’ Committee”), a nonpartisan civil rights organization formed at the request of President Kennedy to enlist the private bar in providing legal services to the poor and deprived throughout the country, we write in support of the Raise the Wage Act and against any motion to recommit (MTT) the bill. The Raise the Wage Act is a necessary step to increase the federal minimum wage, which has remained at $7.25 per hour for ten years, and phase out the subminimum wage for tipped workers, which has been frozen at $2.13 for nearly three decades. The Act would raise wages for all workers of color and reverse the growing trend of pay inequality that disproportionately impacts African Americans, Hispanics, and other people of color.

The Lawyers’ Committee strongly believes the Raise the Wage Act is an essential step towards reducing pay inequality and achieving economic security for communities of color. Our economy has grown immensely over the past several decades, but wages have not—particularly for people of color. Workers of color are more likely to be among the working poor, with African American and Hispanic women respectively making up 38 and 33% of the working poor, and 4.9% of white women. Additionally, people of color disproportionately live in poverty, with 20% of African Americans and 16% of Hispanics living in poverty compared to 8% of white women. With the Raise the Wage Act, nearly two-fifths of African Americans and one-third of Hispanics would receive a raise, lifting many of these families out of poverty and ensuring they can work with dignity and safety.

We urge you to vote for final passage of the Raise the Wage Act and against any motion to recommit because all workers, especially workers of color, need and deserve adequate wages to achieve economic security.

Respectfully submitted,

KRISTEN CLARK,
President & Executive Director.
Community Advocates of Northern Indiana; Community Labor United; Community Reinvestment Alliance of South Florida; Congregation Beth El, Berkeley; Congregation of Our Lady of the Good Shepherd—US Provinces; Congregation of Our Lady of the Good Shepherd—US Provinces; Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes—Grand Rapids;Dominican Sisters—Grand Rapids; East Central Illinois Community Action Agency; DC Local DC Labor Union—Success Coalition; DC Law Students in Court; DC Volunteer Lawyers Project; DCAEHS, Inc.; Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and Families; Disability Law Project; Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund (DREDF); Disability Voters of Maine.

Disabled in Action of Greater Syracuse Inc.; Disciples Center for Public Witness (Disciples of Christ); Disciples Justice Action Network; Dominican Sisters of Houston; DV LEAP; D.C. Housing Solutions; D.C. Hunger Solutions; Dakota Prairie Community Action Agency.

ECOCS.

Economic Opportunity Institute; Economic Policy Institute; Economic Progress Institute; Economic Roundtable; Ecumenical Poverty Initiative; Educate, Advocate.; Education Action; Equal Pay Today; Equal Rights Advocates; Equality California.

Equality North Carolina; Estreet Verdors Association of Chi~cago (SVCA); Faith Voices Arkansas; Family Promise of Greater Des Moines; Family Promise of Knoxville; Family Voices; Federal Housing Assistance of Florida; Feeding Texas; Feminist Majority; First Christian Church.

First Focus Campaign for Children; First United Methodist Church; Florida Impact; Food Chain Workers Alliance; Food Finders Food Bank; Food Lifeline; Food Research & Action Center (FRAC); For Our Future PA; Freedom Network USA; Futures Without Violence.

GCCC/IBT Local 24M/N9; Gender Justice; GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD); Glide; Glori! of the Community Church of West Palm Beach; Greater Cincinnati Community Churches; Godwin-Ternbach Museum; Queens College; CUNY; Good Jobs Nation; GRANDS AS PARENTS INC.; Greater Kansas City Coalition of Labor Union; Greater Lawrence Urban League; Greater New Jersey CLUW Chapter; Greater Oklahoma City Chapter CLUW.

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank; Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart; H.O.P.E.; HANA Center; Hawaii Appleseed; Head Start; Headstart; HEAL Trafficking; Healthy and Free Tennessee; HEAR US Inc.; Hillman Foundation; Hispanic Federation; Holy Cross Ministries; Housing Authority of the County of Lawrence; Housing Choice Partners; Howard Brown Health; Human Connection Resource and Community Human; Hunger Action Network of NYS; Hunger Free Vermont.


Inspirational Gospel Assembly; Interfaith Impact of New York State; Interfaith Worker Network; Indigenous Labor Rights Forum; International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace, and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, UAW; Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement; Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

[From Politico, July 17, 2019]

THE RACIST HISTORY OF TIPPING
(By Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II)

This week, the House of Representatives will have a chance to end a pernicious legacy of slavery. Lawmakers will vote on the Raise the Wage Act, which would hike the minimum wage across the country to $15 an hour by 2024. This would be a crucial step toward the first federal minimum wage increase in more than 10 years.

A just-released Congressional Budget Office report finds that a $15 minimum wage would have implications for low-wage workers of all races and ethnicities. Yet the stakes are particularly high for black workers. The share who would benefit from the Raise the Wage Act is far larger than the share of white workers who would benefit—38 percent compared with 23 percent.

There’s another provision in the legislation—eliminating the subminimum tipped wage—that corrects a wrong that goes much further back than the previous federal minimum wage. It is the tipping system in restaurants, which foregoes the tip credit and makes tipped workers’ wages essentially zero.

Itching Palm, writer William Scott described tipping as an aristocratic custom that went unchallenged in the early 1900s, often in recognition of its undemocratic as the relation of master and man giving a tip and a man accepting it is as against American ideals. “The relation of a tipster and employer to earn anything at all. The immorality of paying an insufficient wage to workers, who then were forced to rely on tips, was acknowledged at the time. Workers in the restaurant industry are far more likely to be poor or near-poor than the general population. Three times as many white workers as black workers. The share who would benefit from the Raise the Wage Act is far larger than the share of white workers who would benefit—38 percent compared with 23 percent.

That’s why national action to finally reverse this particular vestige of slavery is so vital. No one can live on $2.13 an hour—a poverty wage.

We may live in a very different society from 150 years ago, but the subminimum tipped wage, while they lobbied legislators in Michigan to keep the issue from reaching the ballot in the first place. Congress agreed to the deal, and the tipped minimum wage remains just $2.13 to this day. Employers are supposed to pay the dif~

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Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say that youth workers—we have heard about youth workers—should not be paid less for the same work than anyone else. Several of my colleagues have pointed out that there may be a $9 billion in income loss. According to the CBO, that comes from families making more than $232,000 a year. Families making less than that will get an increase in pay.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all of my colleagues, including members of the Committee on Education and Labor and Representatives across the Nation who have been instrumental in advancing this legislation. But most of all, I want to recognize the workers in communities across the country who stood up and demanded a fair day’s pay for a fair day’s work. There are some of them with us today, the Fight for $15 workers, the SEIU workers, and others from across the country.

I also want to acknowledge a broad coalition of business support, including Business for a Fair Minimum Wage and the U.S. Women’s Chamber of Commerce.

Proposals to increase the minimum wage are always met with the same baseless predictions we have heard today. Opponents cried wolf in the 1930s, and we should not fear the impact of putting money in workers’ pockets or, as President Roosevelt said in a fireside chat way back in 1938: “Do not let any calamity-howling thatiate with an income of $1,000 a day... tell you... that a wage of $11 a week is going to have a disastrous effect on all American industry.”

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to take that advice, pass the Raise the Wage Act and give a raise to 33 million Americans. It is a raise that is long overdue.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CUellar. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of raising the minimum wage for millions in our country. This important legislation raises the wage for 45 percent of workers in my district, and provides a wage increase of nearly $640,000.

The Raise the Wage Act will indeed lift thousands of my constituents out of poverty and provide opportunity for economic mobility. However, I would like to highlight the work I have done on this legislation to make it more amenable to small, family owned businesses. Why? I acknowledge that many Americans deserve a raise, we in Congress must be above rhetoric and talking points. With such a significant change proposed to the minimum wage, this must be carried out in a precise, tactful manner. As of today, 36 percent of small businesses employ 10 or more wage-earners in the United States is a mere 3.7 percent. It is critical that policies we pass through this House do not interrupt or deter this economic prosperity.

Furthermore, while I support this important legislation, we must consider how it will affect small businesses and their economic futures. Therefore, I have negotiated with the Committee a provision to lengthen the phase in period to $15 minimum wage until the year 2026.

Additionally, I am a co-sponsor of the O’Halleran Amendment. This amendment will require a comprehensive GAO report on national and regional economic impacts of the minimum wage increases in this bill. The report will have a special focus on small business and agricultural sectors. It will facilitate Congress’ ability to make policy changes based on the actual economic effects of this legislation.

Last year, I submitted two amendments that exempt local and small farms, as well as small businesses, from the $15 minimum wage. These amendments delayed the minimum wage from reaching $15 until the year 2029, as well as kept the current “tipped-wage” provision for restaurant workers. I also sought to create a small business tax credit, along with providing two additional years to comply with a doubling of the federal minimum wage.

By providing tax credits, compliance exemptions, and a longer runway to $15, my amendments intended to give small businesses the tools they need to thrive in the economy this bill will create.

I was disappointed that my amendments were not included in this measure, but will work for their inclusion elsewhere given the vast economic benefits that small businesses provide in my community, and around the country. There are over 30 million small businesses in the United States today. Additionally, there are 24.3 million individually operated businesses with no employees. Small businesses employ over 60 million Americans—nearly half of the private workforce—and there are now over 287,000 small business exporters.

The United States small business community contributes approximately $8.5 trillion to the economy, roughly half of the United States total $17 trillion GDP. Small businesses are the backbone of our country, and the engine that drives our economy. While I will vote in favor of this legislation, I hope to have my amendments incorporated as this bill moves through the legislative process. I include them for the Record.

As this legislation heads over to the Senate, I look forward working with my friends to improve this bill and ensure further small business provisions are included, as well as with my colleagues in the House on future legislation that will help address these concerns.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the time to recognize the importance of small businesses to our great nation, and the need to pay Americans a living wage.

Amendment to H.R. 582, as reported
Offered by Mr. Cuellar of Texas
Strike section 3 and insert the following new section: SEC. 3. MINIMUM WAGE FOR SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.
Section 6 of the Fair Labor Standards Act, as amended, is amended by adding at the end the following:

(1) SMALL BUSINESS MINIMUM WAGE RATE.—With respect to an employer that is a small business concern (as defined in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)), except as otherwise provided in this section, the wage in effect under subsection (a) shall be—

(1) $9.00 an hour during the calendar year 2019;

(2) $9.50 an hour during the calendar year 2020;
across the nation, helping them pay their bills, support their children, and grow our economy via their increased spending power.

Many do not remember that—from the outset—the intent was that the minimum wage should be a livable wage. The federal minimum wage was part of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938; critical legislation supporting workers and children by setting a federal minimum wage, requiring time-and-a-half pay, and banning the atrocity of child labor in factories. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt even said, "See to it that we are equal to the plain fact that no business which depends for existence on paying less than living wages to its workers has any right to continue in this country . . . and by living wages I mean more than a bare subsistence level—I mean the wages of decent living." A time in our country when the wealth gap is appallingly large, I am proud that the Democratic Leadership is prioritizing a livable wage. For over a decade millions of hard-working Americans worked full-time making just $7.25 an hour. Tipped workers, teen workers, or workers with disabilities have made even less. Current law allows tipped workers to make just $2.13 an hour plus tips, allows teen workers to be paid just $4.25 an hour for their first 90 days, and allows a subminimum wage for people with disabilities, unjustly denying them the dignity they deserve. Men and women throughout the nation work full-time yet remain trapped in poverty by their low-wages. According to the American Association of University Women, a single mom raising two kids while working a full-time minimum wage job earns only about $14,500 or $5,000 below the poverty line. Clearly, the current minimum wage is not a living wage but a policy that systematically grows the divide between the poor and the secure, creating barriers for low-income workers to break out of poverty.

The minimum wage increase in this bill will help close the wage gap that women—especially African-American and Latina-American women—face due to their disproportionate overrepresentation in tipped employment. Raising the minimum wage also will reduce child poverty. According to the Economic Policy Institute, the increased minimum wage will give raises to 41 million women, 28 percent of whom have children.

As many may know, helping low-income workers is a primary legislative priority for me. In my District, almost 31 percent of children live in poverty and half of those children live in extreme poverty. Further, 25 percent of the tax filers in my district are low-income working parents. I see the challenges that these children face first-hand. They are hard-working and incredible people trying to better themselves.

I reject opponents’ arguments that increasing the federal minimum wage will viscerate jobs. I know first-hand the benefits of an increased minimum wage because the minimum wage in the City of Chicago is $13 an hour, much higher than the federal wage of $7.25. According to the Illinois Economic Policy Institute, the transition to this wage had no impact on the employment rate nor did it negatively affect private businesses. Rather, the higher minimum wage was part of a higher demand for low-income households for employment. Given the positive outcomes from raising the minimum wage in Chicago and given state-wide economic needs, Governor J.B. Pritzker and our state legislators just raised the state minimum wage to $15—making Illinois, D.C., and five other states national leaders in providing livable wages for their workers. Our new law will help almost 1.4 million Illinoisans currently making less than $15 an hour, lifting thousands out of poverty and growing our economy at the same time.

Now today as a Congressman, I proudly cast my vote in support of raising the federal minimum wage to strengthen workers, families, and our nation. Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 582. This bill is yet another overreaching power-grab from Washington. Missouri voters already decided to raise their minimum wage last year. However, now the federal government believes it knows better than the states and wants to force a one-size-fits-all policy on all Americans. Unfortunately, this policy will cost 3.7 million jobs nationwide, and would cause nearly half of families with a minimum wage earner to see a reduction in household income.

Even worse, this bill is simply flawed legislation. Let's defeat this bill and fortunately, this policy will cost 3.7 million jobs nationwide, and would cause nearly half of families with a minimum wage earner to see a reduction in household income. Even worse, the current minimum wage places nearly 78,000 Texans at this unlivable income, while 118,000 Texas families are even less. The Raise the Wage Act will result in a significant increase in the average annual earnings for Texans. In my home district, this figure is estimated to increase by 18.2 percent, which will make an immeasurable difference in our communities.

Many people in my district are forced to work multiple jobs for long hours to ensure food is on the table for their families. This legislation will eliminate this burden on our working families. The minimum wage may be growing, and wages may be rising, but the benefits of economic and wage growth are not felt equally. Individuals working 40 hours a week should be able to afford the basic necessities for themselves and their family.

I proudly stand in this chamber as a co-sponsor of H.R. 582, the Raise the Wage Act. I urge my colleagues on both sides to join me in voting for this legislation to promote economic freedom and equity for all Americans.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 582, the Raise the Wage Act, a bill that would radically improve the lives of millions of Americans.

For ten years, the longest period in United States history, workers have suffered as the federal minimum wage stayed the same as inflation rose. With the same wages and rising prices, workers essentially received a 17 percent pay cut. That's unacceptable, and it's about time we give American workers a raise. Americans are working just as hard as any generation, and yet, they are receiving less than their parents and they are struggling to afford basic necessities and claim their share of the American dream.

A nationwide poll shows that Americans support raising the minimum wage across geographic and party lines.

Georgia's Second Congressional District, which I represent, is one of many that would be most impacted. 43 percent of workers would receive a wage increase. While some of these workers are women and people of color, who are disproportionately affected by poverty, the largest age group that would benefit are those between the ages of 25 and 39.

Nationally, raising the minimum wage to $15 would lift 1.3 million Americans out of poverty, including 600,000 children. Poverty has devastating effects on families, and studies have shown children born into poverty have greater difficulties succeeding in the future. Americans working hard and should be able to support themselves and their families. This bill is modest and gradual, giving businesses plenty of time to adjust. Raising the minimum wage is simply another way to help our constituents improve their lives and boost the economy.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill. The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate on the bill has expired. AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. O'HALLERAN Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 582, the Raise the Wage Act. We must advance for an increase in the minimum wage, as stagnant wages impede economic growth and are a detriment to our nation's working class.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, the current minimum wage places nearly 78,000 Texans at this unlivable income, while 118,000 Texas families are even less. The Raise the Wage Act will result in a significant increase in the average annual earnings for Texas. In my home district, this figure is estimated to increase by 18.2 percent, which will
My amendment will only strengthen the underlying bill. It requires independent, objective analysis of the economic and employment impacts of this legislation, and the Government Accountability Office to submit a report to Congress on the effects of the first two wage increases in the legislation.

Specifically, the GAO must report on the effects on small businesses and on wages and compensation. The report also includes an analysis of the law's effects on urbanized and rural areas.

Importantly, this amendment would require the GAO to consult various stakeholders when developing its report. These would include small business owners, labor economists, agricultural workers, the food service industry, and State and local governments.

It would allow constituents to provide their input on how their families, businesses, and communities have been affected.

This thoughtful, data-driven approach will allow us to see the real impacts of this legislation.

I believe as lawmakers we do the best job of responding to the needs of our constituents when we are best informed.

I want to thank the cosponsors of the amendment and the Education and Labor Committee for working with us and the Rules Committee for making this amendment in order.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Arizona (Mr. O'HALLERAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. O'HALLERAN. This prudent, commonsense amendment is necessary to ensure that once this legislation is passed, it has the positive effects we intended. I strongly support the Raise the Wage Act, and I believe it will positively impact communities nationwide and lift families out of poverty.

The State of Arizona and my constituents in the First District voted overwhelmingly to raise the minimum wage in 2016. It is currently $11 an hour. During this implementation of this minimum wage increase, Arizona has seen a 4.3 percent growth in State GDP—the third fastest growing economy in the Nation. We have seen in Arizona that a minimum wage pays off for our economy and our families.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve my time.
necessary to delay the next scheduled increases, if necessary.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as earlier stated, the chairman of the Education and Labor Committee already has a low opinion of these types of studies, and his mind is made up about a $15 Federal minimum wage. This amendment sets up a rigged process in which House Democrat leaders who already support a $15 Federal minimum wage will decide whether to move forward with it. There is no doubt how they will decide.

Congressman Grijalva agrees with Chairman Scott. He is quoted in a July 15 article in The Hill regarding the amendment’s proposed study: “It’s almost perfunctory. Look what we did. So I don’t think it’s consequential. But I don’t think it’s needed, either.”

Mr. Speaker, this amendment is not necessary. Let the Democrats vote for the $15 wage hike and take the consequences of it. Democrats should stop trying to provide political cover for themselves with this amendment which does absolutely nothing.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. O’HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Arizona has 1 1⁄2 minutes remaining.

Mr. O’HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that the discussion in Chairman Scott’s comments were not about this bill. They were about another bill.

To identify that the Members of this Congress do not need data on which to make further decisions, I hope we don’t get to that point in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding I am allowed to close, and I will reserve until the other side does so.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct.

Mr. O’HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Scott), committee chairman, for all the hard work he has done. And I want to look forward to a time in America that we can see a time when the working families of America can partake in the economy as others do today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I will say again to our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, there is no group of people more than the Republicans on this side of the aisle who care about working families and who work every day for the philosophies that will support those working families and, again, all other groups.

Let me say again, the amendment requires the GAO study only the effects of the first two of the seven wage hikes in H.R. 582 rather than the actual effect of this bill, which is increasing the minimum wage by 10 percent.

As my colleagues well know, the first two wage hikes will not be as damaging as the increase to $15, so the results of the proposed GAO study are rigged to avoid using the damaging 10 percent hike as the appropriate benchmark.

This amendment, however, has no teeth. It merely says that Congress can make recommendations after the first two wage hikes have gone into effect, but there is no requirement that Congress do anything in response, and there is no fast-track authority in this amendment.

Again, I will say that this amendment is not necessary.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to see this amendment for what it is: an attempt to provide political cover to Democrat Members who are justifiably concerned about the negative impacts of a $15 Federal minimum wage in their district.

Vote “no” on this amendment and “no” on H.R. 582.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered on the bill and on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. O’HALLERAN).

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. O’HALLERAN).

The question was taken; and the vote was recorded.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. O’HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. O’HALLERAN) will be followed by 5-minute votes on:

A motion to recommit, if offered; and Passage of the bill, if ordered; and Agreeing to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 248, noes 181, not voting 3, as follows:

[Vote Roll No. 494]

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I will say again to our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, there is no group of people more than the Republicans on this side of the aisle who care about working families and who work every day for the philosophies that will support those working families and, again, all other groups.

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The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 248, noes 181, not voting 3, as follows:

[Vote Roll No. 494]
Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I am here to offer a motion to amend this bill. 

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, this motion will not delay passage of this bill or return it to committee. It is our last opportunity as a House to amend this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I am here to offer a motion to amend that is about small business survival. It is about protecting the 8 million minority-owned small businesses, the 9.9 million women-owned small businesses, and the 2.5 million veteran-owned small businesses around the country from the devastating repercussions of H.R. 582.

With this motion to recommit, employers with fewer than 10 employees or annual sales under $1 million will not be forced to implement a $15-per-hour minimum wage. If this amendment is adopted, mom-and-pop shops across the country will be protected from this bill’s extreme and unnecessary one-size-fits-all Washington mandate.

Small businesses employ almost half of all U.S. employees and account for two-thirds of net new jobs. 99.9 percent of U.S. businesses are small.

We know small businesses and their employees are the most vulnerable to this radical and unprecedented increase in the Federal minimum wage. The National Federation of Independent Business estimates that businesses with fewer than 50 employees will account for 57 percent of jobs lost due to this bill, and businesses with fewer than 100 employees will account for 43 percent of jobs lost.

Yet my Democrat colleagues have done nothing to protect these job creators from a 107 percent minimum wage hike. Instead, this legislation treats big and small businesses exactly same.

Without the financial resilience needed to absorb the increase in bottom-line costs that this legislation will bring about, small businesses and towns in every congressional district will be forced to make very tough choices: Do they lay off workers? Raise prices on their customers? Replace workers with robotics? Or shut their doors completely?

Congress should not force our Nation’s smallest and most vital job creators to make those kinds of decisions. Small businesses and their families will also take a significant hit. The nonpartisan CBO backs up this reality, reporting that mandating a $15 minimum wage would ‘‘reduce business income and raise prices as higher labor costs would be absorbed by business owners and then passed on to consumers.’’

From coast to coast, we have already seen real-world examples of how workers and employers would be punished by this socialist policy. One study found that Washington-knows-best mandates that stretch across our Nation—or better known as socialist policies—we have real-world examples showing that they simply do not work. There was a very thorough study by Washington State University which showed, in Seattle, a $15 minimum wage law reduced total income paid to the city’s low-wage workers by $120 million per year in that one city alone.

The cost of living in Seattle, Los Angeles, and New York City, where a $15 minimum wage law reduced total income paid to the city’s low-wage workers by $120 million per year in that one city alone.

Small business owners in the State of Washington actually said it best: Congress should not and cannot mandate its way to wage growth and prosperity, because those mandates hit small business hardest.

Mr. Speaker, even the liberal Washington Post said yesterday: ‘‘There is a trade-off in raising the minimum wage so substantially.’’

The Washington Post went on to say: ‘‘Those who would lose out, in the form of no job at all, would wind up not with less pay but with no pay.’’

I urge all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this modest but important amendment to H.R. 582. The small businesses and their workers back home in each and every one of our districts will thank us for protecting their livelihood.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, there has been an awful lot of talk recently about what it means to be a patriotic American, and the fact is the answer for each of us is deeply personal.

I wasn’t blessed to be born an American citizen. I was born in Vietnam, where my parents faced persecution by a communist government, in part, for their wartime affiliation with the U.S. military.

When I was a baby, we fled Vietnam by boat, running out of fuel in the South China Sea when a U.S. Navy ship came to our rescue, helping us reach a Malaysian refugee camp. A Lutheran church then sponsored our passage to America, where we became proud citizens.

Although we were eternally grateful to be here, life wasn’t always easy. My mom worked as a seamstress and my dad at a power plant, and together, they cleaned office buildings at night, often bringing my brother and me along.

My parents didn’t speak English well or have a community of close friends, but what they did have, like so many immigrants, was a strong work ethic.

My dad also had a labor union in his corner, and the union spoke for him and they fought for him.

My parents worked hard to make ends meet so that their children would have opportunities that they themselves never had. And that is the American Dream, which brings me back to the question of what it means to be a patriot.
For me, it starts with gratitude for this country and an appreciation for its exceptional qualities.

This country saved my family’s life. It gave us refuge and opportunity, and it has done for so many across generations.

But I think patriotism goes beyond making this country ever stronger. It is about trying to make life a little bit easier for Americans who work hard and play by the rules, folks like my parents, and like so many of my constituents.

I support this bill for a simple reason: In the greatest country on Earth, nobody with the dignity of a full-time job should suffer the indignity of not being able to provide for themselves or their loved ones.

For a decade, the minimum wage has been stuck at $7.25 an hour, while the cost of living has skyrocketed, and there is no part in this great country where $7.25 is a living wage anymore.

It is past time we gave hardworking American families a raise. They have earned it.

This bill gradually increases the minimum wage in seven steps, reaching $15 by 2025. This is a reasonable bill, not a radical one.

CBO estimates this bill will raise wages for nearly 30 million workers and lift millions out of poverty. They will have more money to spend in the local economy because workers are consumers, too, and they will be less reliant on government programs.

Given that our deficit will exceed a trillion dollars this year, that should be music to my Republican colleagues’ ears.

I oppose this MTR because every American who works hard deserves a fair shot at the American Dream. Whether you live in Pennsylvania or Arizona or Minnesota or Florida, you deserve a raise. And whether you work for a large corporation or a small business, you deserve a raise; you deserve a living wage; and you certainly deserve $15 an hour.

Public polling shows strong bipartisan support for increasing the minimum wage.

Make no mistake: This MTR is simply a Republican attempt to defeat this bill because they oppose any increase to the Federal minimum wage. Some opponents want to keep a minimum wage of all at well. The American people disagree, and as Democrats, we stand with the American people.

The contrast is clear: Our Republican colleagues made working families pay for tax cuts for the wealthiest individuals and corporations. Yes. Yes. Yes. And now they are opposing our efforts to give those working families a raise. That is not just bad policy; that is shameful.

When I vote “yes” on final passage, I will be thinking about my parents and my hardworking constituents; and thank God families like these have labor unions fighting for them in the workplace and in the Halls of Congress. This will be one of the proudest votes I cast.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the MTR. Let’s pass this bill. Let’s continue this fight in the Senate and in State capitols across this country.

I yield the balance of my time.

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**RECORDED VOTE**

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Themotion to recommit. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

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**AYES—210**

| Aderhold | Allen | Amaah | Armstrong | Avel & | Bacon | Baird | Baldwin | Banks | Barr | Bergman | Bilek | Bishop (UT) | Boo | Brady | Brindisi | Brooks (AL) | Brooks (IN) | Buchanan | Buck | Buckhahn | Burchett | Burgess | Byrne | Carter (GA) | Carter (TX) | Cary | Chabot | Chavez | Chene | Cline | Cloud | Cole | Colburn | Collins (GA) | Collins (NY) | Comer | Conn | Conaway | Cook | Crawford | Crenshaw | Cuellar | Cunningham (NY) | Davis (NC) | Davidson (OH) | Davis (RI) | De Jonge | DeSaulnier | Dingell | Doggett | Donnelly | Faso | Feenstra | Fee | Fischmann | Floren | Foxx (NC) | Fuller | McAdams |
|----------|-------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|-------|---------|-------|------|---------|-------|-----------|----|-------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|-------|-------|---------|-------|----------|-----|-------|--------|-------|---------|-------|-------|--------|-------|----------|-------|-------|--------|-------|---------|-------|-------|--------|-------|---------|
| Aderhold | Allen | Amaah | Armstrong | Avel & | Bacon | Baird | Baldwin | Banks | Barr | Bergman | Bilek | Bishop (UT) | Boo | Brady | Brindisi | Brooks (AL) | Brooks (IN) | Buchanan | Buck | Buckhahn | Burchett | Burgess | Byrne | Carter (GA) | Carter (TX) | Cary | Chabot | Chavez | Chene | Cline | Cloud | Cole | Colburn | Collins (GA) | Collins (NY) | Comer | Conn | Conaway | Cook | Crawford | Crenshaw | Cuellar | Cunningham (NY) | Davis (NC) | Davidson (OH) | Davis (RI) | De Jonge | DeSaulnier | Dingell | Doggett | Donnelly | Faso | Feenstra | Fee | Fischmann | Floren | Foxx (NC) | Fuller | McAdams |
Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 495.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 231, noes 199, not voting 3, as follows:

AYES—231

[Roll No. 496]

NOES—199

Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

The result of the vote was announced by the Clerk and the House did pass the bill.

H7128

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

July 18, 2019

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCOTT of Virginia). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 582.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JUDY CHU of California). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 962, BORN-ALIVE ABORTION SURVIVORS PROTECTION ACT

Mr. HUDSON. Madison Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 962, the Born-Alive Survivors Protection Act, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leadership.

Mr. HUDSON. Madison Speaker, if this unanimous consent request cannot be entertained, I urge the Speaker and majority leader to immediately schedule the born-alive bill so that we can stand up and protect the sanctity of human life.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is not recognized for debate.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHIEF OF STAFF, THE HONORABLE STEVE SCALISE, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Jennifer Megan Bel Miller, Chief of Staff, the Honorable Steve Scalise, Member of Congress: