

Second Regular Session
Sixty-ninth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

ENGROSSED

LLS NO. R14-0946.01 Meghan O'Connor x4143

HJR14-1012

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House Committees

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 14-1012

101 CONCERNING A FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE, AND, IN
102 CONNECTION THEREWITH, URGING THE UNITED STATES
103 CONGRESS TO ACT.

1 WHEREAS, The federal minimum wage was established through
2 the "Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938", in response to the Great
3 Depression, to ensure that workers earned enough to pay for necessities
4 and minimum monthly expenses; and

5 WHEREAS, Since then, the cost of living has steadily increased
6 while the federal minimum wage has generally remained stagnant; and

7 WHEREAS, Congress has only raised the minimum wage twice
8 in the past 20 years; and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

HOUSE
Amended Final Rog.
March 13, 2014

1 WHEREAS, The federal minimum wage, adjusted for inflation,
2 has declined from its peak of \$10.72 in 1968 to \$7.25 today, a 33%
3 decrease in purchasing power; and

4 WHEREAS, Under the current minimum wage, it is possible to
5 work full time and still be under the minimum federal poverty line; and

6 WHEREAS, It is virtually impossible for a minimum-wage worker
7 to afford a two-bedroom apartment in any state while working a 40-hour
8 week; and

9 WHEREAS, Raising the federal minimum wage would decrease
10 American dependency on public assistance programs, such as Section 8
11 housing vouchers and food stamps, in order to pay for living expenses
12 and raising families; and

13 WHEREAS, The majority of those who would benefit from a
14 minimum wage increase are full-time workers who are supporting their
15 families in moderate- to low-income households; and

16 WHEREAS, For the vast majority of low-skilled or unskilled
17 workers, the minimum wage should be simply a starting salary that gets
18 them employed and gives them a chance to advance; and

19 WHEREAS, Increasing the minimum wage would immediately
20 boost the wages of about 15 million low-income workers; and

21 WHEREAS, Raising the federal minimum wage is projected to
22 significantly boost the economy at large by increasing purchasing power
23 of workers, thereby increasing the United States' gross domestic product;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, In 2006, Colorado voters decisively voted to approve
26 Initiative 42, which raised the state minimum wage and tied it to inflation
27 in order to preserve the purchasing power of Colorado workers and help
28 ensure that they can support themselves and their families; and

29 WHEREAS, Colorado raised the minimum wage in 2011 and 2012
30 over the federal minimum, which contributed to a decrease in the
31 unemployment rate from 8.73% to 7.2% during that two-year period; and

32 WHEREAS, Several other states have notably raised their

1 minimum wages during times of high unemployment, including
2 Washington, Oregon, Ohio, and Arizona, and those states all experienced
3 decreases of at least 1.5% in unemployment during the same two-year
4 period; and

5 WHEREAS, Raising the minimum wage not only will stimulate
6 the economy but will also lift millions of Americans out of poverty; now,
7 therefore,

8 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-ninth*
9 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*

10 That we, the Colorado General Assembly, urge and request
11 members of Congress to increase the federal minimum wage and
12 thereafter tie it to inflation to help ensure that hard-working Americans
13 can earn a fair wage and afford to care for their families.

14 *Be It Further Resolved,* That a copy of this Joint Resolution be
15 transmitted to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the
16 United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,
17 the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, the Majority and
18 Minority Leaders of the United States House of Representatives and
19 Senate, and the Majority and Minority Whips of the United States House
20 of Representatives and Senate.