



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 14-1012

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Melton and Moreno, Becker, Buckner, Court, Duran, Exum, Fields, Fischer, Foote, Garcia, Ginal, Hamner, Hullinghorst, Kagan, Kraft-Tharp, Labuda, Lebsock, Lee, May, Mitsch Bush, Pabon, Peniston, Pettersen, Primavera, Rosenthal, Ryden, Salazar, Schafer, Singer, Tyler, Vigil, Williams, Young, Ferrandino;
also SENATOR(S) Ulibarri and Zenzinger, Heath, Jones, Kerr, Newell, Nicholson, Schwartz, Todd, Carroll.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Several other states have notably raised their minimum wages during times of high unemployment, including Washington, Oregon, Ohio, and Arizona, and those states all experienced decreases of at least 1.5% in unemployment during the same two-year period; and

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

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

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

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

Mark Ferrandino
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Morgan Carroll
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Cindi Markwell
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE