



IGNATIAN FAMILY ADVOCACY MONTH FEBRUARY 2014

SAMPLE LETTER TO CONGRESS – MINIMUM WAGE [Your Institutional Letterhead (If Applicable)]

[Date]

The Honorable _____
House (or Senate) Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 (20510)

Dear Congressman/Senator _____:

As your constituent, I am writing today to urge you to support H.R. 1010 / S. 460, the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2013. This important piece of legislation will raise the federal minimum wage to \$10.10/hour in three incremental steps by 2015, and will index the wage rate to more accurately reflect the rising costs of living starting in 2016. Further, it will support tipped workers by increasing their minimum wage—a paltry \$2.13/hour—to 70% of the standard minimum wage.

The Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2013 would help restore the minimum wage to its historic level, making up for decades of erosion. The federal minimum wage has lost more than 30% of its value and would be at least \$10.55 per hour today if it kept pace with the cost of living over the past forty years. The long-standing decline of the minimum wage, relative to the cost of living, has contributed to the growth of income inequality and poverty over the past three decades.

Consequently, the minimum wage is now too low to live on: full-time minimum wage workers who have a child fall below the poverty line, and in no state can a minimum wage worker afford a two-bedroom unit at Fair Market Rent. In 2011, there were 10.4 million low-income working families, including 23.5 million children.

Raising the minimum wage is particularly important to me because [include personal story or share what inspired you to write this letter].

Therefore, I urge you to do all you can to make the Fair Minimum Wage Act a law to support the dignity of workers, allow the minimum wage to reflect the rising costs of living, and support the U.S. economy.

Sincerely,

Your name
Your address

Letter Writing Tips:

The above letter is a starting point—make it your own by sharing your personal testimony and/or including reasons why you feel minimum wage legislation is important. Use the issue talking points for ideas, and make sure the letter includes the following elements: **a specific ask, reasons why it’s important, your name, and your home address.**

Mail To:

Senator _____
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C., 20510

Representative _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C., 20515