

Legislative Advocacy in 3 minutes or less



Virginia Fair Wage Act

In just minutes, you can make a difference in the lives of Virginia's low income workers and their families. Support their efforts to work their way out of poverty-- write your State Delegate or Senator a short message supporting the Virginia Fair Wage Act. Here's how:

1. CLEARLY STATE YOUR REQUEST.

Ask your legislator to support the Virginia Fair Wage Act.

2. GIVE JUST ONE OR TWO REASONS FOR YOUR REQUEST. HERE ARE SOME IDEAS. FEEL FREE TO USE THESE, OR MIX THEM WITH YOUR OWN OUTLOOK AND EXPERIENCE.

It's been nearly a decade since the minimum wage was last raised. The cost of living has increased significantly since then.

Full-time minimum wage workers in Virginia cannot afford basic food, shelter, and medical care.

A Statewide increase in the minimum wage will affect all businesses equally; Virginia businesses won't have to choose between paying a fair wage and staying competitive.

An increase in the minimum wage will increase job retention, worker productivity, and morale and will decrease absenteeism, turnover, and recruiting costs.

Communities will benefit as low income workers spend their earnings in their neighborhoods, and decrease their dependence upon local or State services.

Most poor children live with working parents--poverty among children has increased as the minimum wage has stagnated.

3. CLOSE.

Tell your legislator that you'd like to know how he or she plans to vote. Include your name and address on the note as well as on the envelope, so your representative knows you are a constituent.

Dear Senator (or Delegate) _____:

As a resident of _____ and one of your constituents, I am writing to request your support for the Virginia Fair Wage Act. The minimum wage has not been increased since 1997. At \$5.15/hour, the minimum wage does not provide a sufficient income for workers to support themselves.

Minimum wage workers must often take multiple jobs in order to get by. This limits their ability to attend to their children, further their education or engage their communities. The Virginia Fair Wage Act will allow low wage workers to better support themselves and their families, and will restore their ability to work their way out of poverty.

When workers do not earn enough to get by, they often must turn to local, state and federal support--from food banks to food stamps to public housing. All Virginians end up subsidizing business through charitable and government spending for underpaid workers.

I urge you to help restore the promise of work through your vote for the Virginia Fair Wage Act. I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

(name and address)

Legislators do not respond to form letters, so take a moment and make this letter your own. To contact your legislator during the session, write:

(Senators)
The Honorable _____
P.O. Box 396
Richmond VA 23219

(Delegates)
The Honorable _____
P.O. Box 406
Richmond VA 23219