



City of Chicago



R2014-71

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date: 2/5/2014

Sponsor(s): Emanuel (Mayor)
Mitts (37)
Burns (4)
Thompson (16)
Pawar (47)

Type: Resolution

Title: Support of proposal by President Barack Obama to raise minimum wage and call for City Council Committee on Workforce Development to hold hearing on issue

Committee(s) Assignment: Committee on Budget and Government Operations

BUDG.



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

February 5, 2014

TO THE HONORABLE, THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith, together with Aldermen Mitts, Burns, Thompson and Pawar, a resolution concerning the minimum wage.

Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Mayor

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Congress has raised the federal minimum wage only two times in the last 20 years, most recently in 2009; and

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

WHEREAS, In his State of the Union address last month, President Obama expressed strong support for a bill pending in Congress that gradually raises the federal minimum wage over three years to \$10.10 an hour and mandates automatic adjustments for inflation; and

WHEREAS, The White House estimates that, if enacted, the legislation would immediately boost the wages of about 15 million low-income workers; and

WHEREAS, According to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, more than 85,000 persons in Illinois, a large percentage of whom live and work in Chicago, hold minimum-wage jobs; and

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

WHEREAS, Full-time minimum-wage workers in Illinois earn approximately \$17,160 per year before taxes, which is barely above the poverty threshold for households of two people, and well below it for households of three or more; and

WHEREAS, The bulk of reputable research on the subject shows that raising the minimum wage has little or no adverse impact on employment and prices – to the contrary, according to the Economic Policy Institute, raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour would help the economy at large, because the increased spending power of workers would increase our nation's gross domestic product by about \$33 billion and create approximately 140,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, A 2012 poll by Lake Research shows that at least 73% of Americans favor an increase in the minimum wage, including 74% of independents and 50% of Republicans, crossing all demographic, regional, and political categories, and polls in 2013 by Gallup and the Pew Research Center reached similar results; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this fifth day of February, 2014, do hereby express our wholehearted support for President Obama's proposal to raise the minimum wage, and call upon the City Council's Committee on Workforce Development to hold a hearing to consider this issue of importance to hardworking people in Chicago and throughout the nation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be presented to the Illinois Delegation to the United States Congress as a sign of our dedication to and support of this important issue.