

By: Alonzo

H.C.R. No. 73

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The federal minimum wage was established at the
2 height of the Great Depression, through the Fair Labor Standards
3 Act of 1938, to keep working Americans out of poverty and stimulate
4 the economy by increasing purchasing power; and

5 WHEREAS, Since 1968, the real value of the federal minimum
6 wage has declined by about 25 percent because there is no automatic,
7 annual cost-of-living adjustment; across the country, 29 states and
8 the District of Columbia have adopted a higher minimum wage to help
9 workers keep up with inflation, and in 2016, 25 states approved new
10 minimum wage increases, according to the National Employment Law
11 Project; in addition, 18 cities and counties approved such hikes;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, The Texas minimum wage has remained at the federal
14 rate of \$7.25 per hour since 2009; a worker with a full-time,
15 year-round minimum-wage job brings home only \$15,080 annually,
16 leaving a family of three to struggle below the poverty line, unable
17 to afford the average two-bedroom apartment; and

18 WHEREAS, Of the top 10 growth occupations for the next
19 decade, as projected by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 6 are
20 low-wage jobs, including home health aides, customer service
21 representatives, food preparation and service workers, personal
22 and home care aides, retail salespersons, and office clerks;
23 raising the minimum wage would improve pay scales for millions of
24 men and women in these positions; and

1 WHEREAS, Higher wages stimulate the economy by increasing
2 consumer spending without adding to state and federal budget
3 deficits; consumer spending drives 70 percent of the economy, and
4 growing demand energizes production and hiring; moreover, research
5 has documented that raising wages benefits employers by enhancing
6 productivity while reducing turnover and the related costs of
7 recruitment, restaffing, and training; and

8 WHEREAS, Cost-of-living analyses show that almost everywhere
9 in the United States, even a single low-wage worker needs to make at
10 least \$15 an hour to cover basic living costs, and in some
11 communities and regions, workers supporting families require much
12 more; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas
14 hereby express support for a \$15 per hour minimum wage.