

By: Reynolds

H.C.R. No. 50

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Federal law sets the federal minimum wage at \$7.25
2 an hour; and

3 WHEREAS, The last time Congress raised the federal minimum
4 wage was in 2007; that year, the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 was
5 passed to gradually raise the federal minimum wage from \$5.15 an
6 hour to \$7.25 an hour in 2009; the Act included small business tax
7 relief provisions and was signed into law by President
8 George W. Bush; and

9 WHEREAS, Speaking at a 2006 news conference, President Bush
10 said that he supported increasing the federal minimum wage, adding
11 that to achieve this and other goals, Congress needed to put aside
12 partisan differences and work constructively to address the vital
13 issues confronting our nation; and

14 WHEREAS, In the nearly 16 years since President Bush signed
15 the last federal minimum wage increase into law, the desire for
16 Congress to put aside partisan differences and work constructively
17 to raise the federal minimum wage has grown stronger in the states;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, To account for cost of living increases, 30 states
20 have set their minimum wage higher than the federal minimum wage,
21 though not at the level of a living wage; 15 states, including
22 Texas, have set their minimum wage in line with the federal minimum
23 wage; and

24 WHEREAS, Supporters of a living wage emphasize that

1 increasing the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour would reduce
2 poverty and grow the economy; their review of previous minimum wage
3 increases found little or no evidence that raising the minimum wage
4 reduces employment; and

5 WHEREAS, Demonstrating that paying workers more reduces
6 turnover, numerous companies, including Amazon, Walmart, Target,
7 Best Buy, Costco, and Starbucks, are now paying many hourly workers
8 at least \$15 an hour; a 2017 Quinnipiac University poll found that a
9 majority of Americans would support a minimum wage of \$15 an hour;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Offering a Texas perspective, noted American
12 economist Dr. James K. Galbraith, a professor at The University of
13 Texas at Austin, wrote that states such as Texas would benefit from
14 raising the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour because such states
15 have too many low-wage workers, too much poverty, and too many
16 people who are getting food stamps and other welfare because they
17 aren't getting paid enough; and

18 WHEREAS, The well-being of this nation depends on a strong
19 and vibrant economy, and Congress should heed the advice of experts
20 such as Dr. Galbraith and raise the minimum wage; now, therefore,
21 be it

22 RESOLVED, That the 88th Legislature of the State of Texas
23 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to raise
24 the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour; and, be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
26 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
27 the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of

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1 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the
2 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that
3 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a
4 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.