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grayson.house.gov

July 16, 2014

Support The Grayson Amendment: **Vote For A \$10.10 Minimum Wage For Federal Employees**

Dear Colleague,

I urge you to join me in supporting a decent day's pay for a decent day's work for all American employees, starting with our nation's federal employees. I urge you to vote YES on the Grayson amendment, and ensure a \$10.10 minimum wage for all federal workers.

In his State of the Union address, President Obama called on Congress to raise the national minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$10.10 an hour. Shortly thereafter, he signed an Executive Order to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 for individuals working on new federal service contracts. There's no reason why a federal employee shouldn't receive the same pay as a contractor working right next to him. Further, passage of this amendment would lay the foundation for a \$10.10 minimum wage in the private sector.

Extending a minimum wage increase to \$10.10 across the U.S., to all types of workers, would have a dramatic impact on our nation's economy. Fifty-five percent of the workers who would benefit from raising the minimum wage are full-time workers. Eighty-eight percent are adults over the age of 20, and nearly two-thirds of minimum wage workers are women. On average, minimum wage workers across America bring home 50 percent of their family's total income.

A federal \$10.10 minimum wage would raise the pay of at least 25 million workers nationwide, generating \$35 billion in increased pay for working American families. Raising the minimum wage would inject \$22 billion in increased economic activity into the economy, and create 85,000 additional jobs. Between 1 million and 4.5 million Americans would be lifted out of poverty, and the incomes of the lowest wage workers would rise by an average of \$1,700. This additional household income would help feed, clothe, and shelter approximately 14 million more American children. Clearly, raising the minimum wage is good not just for the working poor, but all Americans.

The CBO states that the Grayson amendment would have no budgetary effect.

An increase in the minimum wage would actually decrease government spending by reducing the need for taxpayers to subsidize profitable corporations that pay poverty wages. Due to low wages, the fast food industry costs taxpayers \$7 billion a year in public assistance, and an estimated one-third of all bank tellers are on public assistance. The underpaid employees at a single big-box retail store in Wisconsin cost taxpayers around \$1 million a year for just ONE

public assistance program – Medicaid. Americans, by a ratio of four to one, support raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour, and so should we.

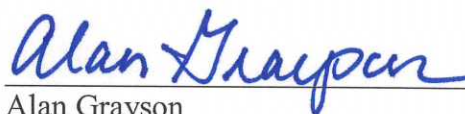
My amendment is simple. It states:

None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay any individual at an annual rate of Grade 1, Steps 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6; or Grade 2 Step 1 or 2 as defined in the "Salary Table 2014-GS" published by the Office of Personnel Management. Further, none of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay any individual at an hourly basic rate of Grade 1, Steps 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6; or Grade 2, Step 1 or 2.

With the elimination of the lowest levels of pay in the General Schedule, the lowest hourly rate that could be paid to a federal employee would be \$10.21. The lowest annual salary would rise to \$21,315 (which is still below the poverty level for a family of four). Federal workers deserve \$10.10 an hour, and so does every other American worker. I urge you to support a \$10.10 minimum wage; and, if you do, I urge you to support this amendment.

If you or your staff have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Shilpa Finnerty of my staff at (202) 225-9889 or shilpa.finnerty@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Alan Grayson
Member of Congress