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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG


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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** All House Members

**FROM:** Rep. Mark B. Cohen 

**DATE:** June 12, 2012

**RE:** Co-sponsorship of a Resolution Commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Minimum Wage

Your co-sponsorship is requested of a resolution to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first-in-the-nation minimum wage in Massachusetts in June 1912.

On June 4, 1912, Massachusetts passed the country's first minimum wage law.

Please contact Linda Huntington in my office to co-sponsor this resolution at [lhunting@pahouse.net](mailto:lhunting@pahouse.net) or at 7-3085.

Attachment

A RESOLUTION ( Rule 35)

Commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the minimum wage

WHEREAS, on June 4, 1912, Massachusetts passed the country's first minimum wage law at first applying only to women and children, soon after, industry-specific wage boards were created to determine respective minimum wages; and

WHEREAS, in 1914, a Massachusetts wage board organized for the state's brush industry established a minimum wage of 16 cents per hour; and

WHEREAS, between 1912 and 1923, fifteen other states including Washington D.C. followed Massachusetts' lead in establishing minimum wage laws; and

WHEREAS, in 1923, the United States Supreme Court in *Adkins v. Children's Hospital* struck down the District of Columbia's minimum wage law on the basis that it violated the right of contract under the due process clause of the Fifth Amendment; and

WHEREAS, in 1933, during the height of the Great Depression, U.S. Labor Secretary Frances Perkins advocated for a national minimum wage and President Franklin D. Roosevelt made the minimum wage a key platform of his 1936 re-election bid promising to constitutionally protect American workers; and

WHEREAS, in 1938, the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act passed with a 25 cent per hour wage floor; and

WHEREAS, in 1941, the United States Supreme Court in *United States v. F.W. Darby Lumber Co.* upheld the Fair Labor Standards Act on a 9-0 decision. Justice Harlan Stone stated that the constitutionality of minimum wages "is no longer open to discussion;" therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first-in-the-nation minimum wage in Massachusetts in June 1912.