

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Senators

FROM: Senator Christine Tartaglione

DATE: 2/13/2019

SUBJECT: Resolution urging Congress to raise the Minimum Wage and the Tipped Minimum Wage to \$15

In the near future, I intend to introduce a resolution that will urge congress to immediately raise both the minimum wage and the tipped minimum wage to \$15 an hour. Since 2009, the national minimum wage has been \$7.25 and the tipped minimum wage has been \$2.13, while the cost of living continues to increase annually. These are poverty wages and are not acceptable for Pennsylvanians, let alone the rest of America.

With the cost of living increasing every year, we must assure our workers that they will be paid a wage that is fair and will reflect the hard work that they do. The Minimum wage would be \$10.15 an hour if it matched the rate of inflation. Instead, earners find themselves left with poverty wages that do not meet the basic standard of a living wage. If we want our nation to thrive, it begins with making sure that every American has a fair chance to thrive economically.

Earners making the current minimum wage tend to still need some form of assistance or a funding safety net to help supplement their income. Ultimately, this costs taxpayers more money to provide for these assistant programs. Raising the wage would create less dependency for workers and families and create less of a need for these funding safety nets.

Please join me in sponsoring this critical resolution and call on Congress to raise both the minimum wage and the tipped minimum wage to \$15 and hour so that we can give workers across the nation a wage they deserve.