

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records
Subgroup/Office of Origin: Correspondence
Series/Staff Member: Trudy Roddick
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 19949
Scan ID: 440606 [Minimum Wage]
Document Number:

Folder Title:
FG006-01

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
S	44	7	8	2

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

P-231

Divider Title: _____

.1149007.....Send.Mail.Message.....

To: AARONP
ALICEP
ANNAC
ANNIES
BARBARAG

Post Date: 02/13/1998
Post Time: 11:45AM
Expires...: 02/28/1998
Type.....: MAIL
Hold.....: N

Subject:

.....Message.....

The following Presidential Letter is on HOLD:

P-231 -- MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

The Master Form Letter Index has been UPDATED.

```
.....Text.Information.....
.....Personal
CDB Text
-----
P Start Search
I
P Edited.. Owne
P 12/19/97 shar
D 08/15/95 bobb
  05/23/95 bobb
  08/12/96 bobb
.. 08/28/97 shar
  10/07/96 bobb
  04/24/96 bobb
  10/31/96 shar
  12/11/97 shar
  07/09/97 shar
  11/18/96 bobb
  06/26/96 bobb
Text.Name: ma/robo/p/p-231
Descriptn: MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE
:
Envelope.: normal.env
Opening..: p.cgtimes.lin.open
Closing..: p.basic.close
Enclosure:
Num Pages: 1
Owner....: bobbyh
Access...: GROUP
Created...: 07-09-96
Edited...: 10-07-96
Last Used: 02-10-98
Volume...: 975
Env/Label: E
On Hold..: Y 02/13/19
Restrict.: N
.....Subjects.....
LAB.MIN.W Labor- Minimum Wage
.....Using.Descriptions.....
```

.21511107.....Read.Mail.Message.....

To: BOBBYH
SHARONL
TRUDYR

From.....: ANNAC
Post Date: 02/13/1998
Post Time: 11:39AM
Expires...: 02/28/1998
Type.....: MAIL Status: R

Subject:

pls. put p-231 minimum wage form on hold. Thx. anna

1115684.....Send.Mail.Message.....

BENG
BETTYH
BOBBYH
CARMENF
CLAREL

Post Date: 10/09/1996
Post Time: 02:11PM
Expires...: 10/24/1996
Type.....: MAIL
Hold.....: N

Subject: P-231; P-311; P-619

.....Message.....

The following Presidential Letters have been RELEASED:

- ✓ P-231 -- Minimum Wage Increase
- P-311 -- Family and Medical Leave Act
- P-619 -- Davis-Bacon Act

The Master Form Letter Index has been updated.

```
.....Text.Information.....
Text.Name: ma/robo/p/p-231
Per Descriptn: MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE
:
Envelope.: normal.env
Start Search Opening...: p.cgtimes.lin.open
Closing...: p.basic.close
Enclosure:
Edited..| Owne
02/07/95| glor
10/07/96| glor
04/24/96| glor
09/04/96| shar
08/30/96| shar
08/09/96| glor
--- 09/14/93| maur
07/29/94| glor
06/26/96| glor
07/02/96| glor
08/22/94| glor
09/11/96| shar
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Owner....: gloriac
Access...: GROUP
Created...: 07-09-96
Edited...: 10-07-96
Last Used:
Volume...:
Env/Label: E
On Hold...: N
Restrict..: N
.....Subjects.....
LAB.MIN.W Labor- Minimum Wage
.....Using.Descriptions.....
```

FORM LETTER

Code: P-231

Topic: Minimum Wage

PLM Writer: Tracy Sisser

Document Name & Directory Location: /home/texts/slr/draft/minimum wage.tfs

Cleared By: John Orszag 7-24 - 8/21 7/3/96

New Form
 Revision
 Update after Senate vote

after signing of minimum wage bill

	Date	Initial
MFL Hold/Created	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="TFS"/>
MFL Assigned	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="TFS"/>
Written	7-23	
(PLM) Referred for Clearance	7-24	- John Orszag
Clearance Received/Final Submitted	7-25	<input type="text" value="TFS"/>
MFL To Review	7.26	<input type="text" value="JS"/>
MFL JS Reviewed	7.26	<input type="text" value="JS"/>
MFL To Mail Analysis	10/3 9/3 7.26	<input type="text" value="JS"/>
(MA) Entered	10/3/96 7/26	<input type="text" value="JS"/>
MFL To Director	9/3 7.26	<input type="text" value="JS"/>
JD/JM Final Director's Approval	w/ [initials] 9/10	<input type="text" value="JS"/>
MFL To Jim for West Wing	9/10	<input type="text" value="JS"/>
(WW) West Wing Approval	9/10/3	<input type="text" value="JS"/>
MFL To Mail Analysis for Activation	10/9	<input type="text" value="JS"/>
(MA) Activated	10/9	<input type="text" value="JS"/>

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 7, 1996

Mr. John M. Doe
Title
Organization
Business Adr1
Business Adr2
Business City, BState BZip-BZip9

Dear John:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts about the minimum wage.

When I took office, the economy was drifting, the unemployment rate was high, and the deficit was skyrocketing. My Administration has worked hard to turn the economy around and provide opportunity for all Americans to make the most of their lives, and I am proud of the progress that we have made.

We have cut the deficit by 60 percent in just four years. Our economy has created more than 10 million new jobs. The combined unemployment, inflation, and mortgage rate is now at its lowest level in 28 years, and we have halted the decade-long slide in real hourly earnings. But this is a record to build on, not to sit on.

As our economy grows, we must ensure that our lowest-paid workers keep up. H.R. 3448, which I signed into law August 20, provides a badly needed pay raise for millions of Americans and their families who struggle to make ends meet while working at the minimum wage. This Act boosts the minimum wage in two steps -- a 50-cent increase, from \$4.25 to \$4.75 an hour, that took effect October 1, followed by an additional 40-cent rise to \$5.15 an hour on September 1, 1997. For a full-time minimum wage worker, the increase means an extra \$1,800 per year -- enough money for the average family to pay for groceries for 7 months. This legislation, passed with bipartisan support in the House and Senate, will help some 10 million of our hardest-pressed working families build a better future.

Thanks again for your interest in this important issue.

Sincerely,



(10/7/96)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 4, 1996

Mr. John M. Doe
Title
Organization
Business Adr1
Business Adr2
Business City, BState BZip-BZip9

Dear John:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts about the minimum wage.

When I took office, the economy was drifting, the unemployment rate was high, and the deficit was skyrocketing. My Administration has worked hard to turn the economy around and provide opportunity for all Americans to make the most of their lives, and I am proud of the progress that we have made.

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Thanks again for your interest in this important issue.

Sincerely,



(10/4/96)

Todd

OK.

Hyelen
OK

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 3, 1996

Mr. John M. Doe
Title
Organization
Business Adr1
Business Adr2
Business City, BState BZip-BZip9

Dear John:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts about ~~legislation to raise~~ the minimum wage.

When I took office, the economy was drifting, the unemployment rate was high and the deficit was skyrocketing. My Administration has worked hard to turn the economy around and provide opportunity for all Americans to make the most of their lives, and I am proud of the progress that ~~has been~~ made.
we have

We have cut the deficit by 60 percent in just four years. Our economy has created more than 10 million new jobs. The combined unemployment, inflation, and mortgage rate is now at its lowest level in 28 years, and we have halted the decade-long slide in real hourly earnings. But this is a record to build on, not to sit on.

As our economy grows, we must ensure that our lowest-paid workers keep up. H.R. 3448, which I signed into law August 20, provides a badly needed pay raise for millions of Americans and their families who struggle to make ends meet while working at the minimum wage. This Act boosts the minimum wage in two steps -- a 50 cent increase from \$4.25 to \$4.75 an hour that ~~takes~~ effect October 1, followed by an additional 40-cent rise to \$5.15 an hour on September 1, 1997. For a full-time minimum wage worker, the increase ~~would mean~~ an extra \$1,800 per year -- enough money for the average family to pay for groceries for seven months. This legislation, passed with bipartisan support in the House and Senate, will help some 10 million of our hardest pressed working families build a better future.

Thanks again for your interest in this important issue.

Sincerely,

(9/3/96)

took

Thank you for sharing your thoughts about legislation to raise the minimum wage.

When I took office, the economy was drifting, the unemployment rate was high and the deficit was skyrocketing. My Administration has worked hard to turn the economy around and provide opportunity for all Americans to make the most of their lives, and I am proud of the progress that has been made.

We have cut the deficit by 60 percent in just four years. Our economy has created more than 10 million new jobs. The combined unemployment, inflation, and mortgage rate is now at its lowest level in 28 years, and we have halted the decade-long slide in real hourly earnings. But this is a record to build on, not to sit on.

As our economy grows, we must ensure that our lowest-paid workers keep up. H.R. 3448, which I signed into law August 20, provides a badly needed pay raise for millions of Americans and their families who struggle to make ends meet while working at the minimum wage. This Act boosts the minimum wage in two steps -- a 50 cent increase from \$4.25 to \$4.75 an hour that takes effect October 1, followed by an additional 40-cent rise to \$5.15 an hour on September 1, 1997. For a full-time minimum wage worker, the increase would mean an extra \$1,800 per year -- enough money for the average family to pay for groceries for seven months. This legislation, passed with bipartisan support in the House and Senate, will help some 10 million of our hardest pressed working families build a better future.

Thanks again for your interest in this important issue.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

20-Aug-1996 06:04pm

TO: (See Below)
FROM: Darby Stott
Office of Press Secretary
SUBJECT: STATEMENT RE: MINIMUM WAGE

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 20, 1996

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Today I have signed into law H.R. 3448, the "Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996."

This is important and long overdue legislation that provides a badly needed pay raise for millions of Americans and their families who struggle to make ends meet while working at the minimum wage. The Act boosts the minimum wage in two steps -- a 50 cent increase from \$4.25 to \$4.75 an hour that takes effect October 1, followed by an additional 40 cent rise to \$5.15 an hour on September 1, 1997. This increase will help some 10 million of our hardest pressed working families build a better future. It is true to the basic American bargain that if you work hard you ought to have food on your table and a living wage in your pocket. It is the right thing to do.

I should note that I disagree with certain provisions added to the minimum wage title of the Act, such as the provision creating a new subminimum wage for young people and the one denying increased cash wages to most employees who rely on tips for part of their income. Still, those defects do not obscure the central accomplishment of this Act -- securing the first minimum wage increase since 1991.

Beyond raising the minimum wage, this Act represents real progress on a number of other fronts.

First, I am particularly gratified by the important provisions in this Act concerning adoption. The Act provides a nonrefundable tax credit of up to \$5,000 per child for adoption expenses; \$6,000 for children with special needs. It will help thousands of children waiting for a family who wants them. It will help thousands of middle class parents realize their dream of adopting a child. It will build stronger families and stronger communities.

Moreover, the Act bars placement agencies that receive Federal funds from denying or delaying adoptions based on race, color, or national origin. As I have consistently said, it is time to end the historical bias against interracial adoptions. That bias has too often meant interminable delay for children waiting to be matched with parents of the same race. It is time to put the creation of strong and loving families first.

Second, the Act creates a simplified, 401(k) retirement

plan for small businesses, making it far easier for such companies to offer pensions to their employees. This new plan includes many of the pension reforms my Administration proposed more than a year ago. For example, it increases the portability of pensions, allowing more new workers to start saving for retirement from their first day on the job. It cuts the vesting period for workers in multiemployer plans from 10 years to 5, immediately vesting over 1 million workers in their benefits. It repeals the so-called "family aggregation rule," which limited the retirement benefits of family members working together in the same business. It allows nonprofit organizations and Indian tribes to maintain 401(k) plans for their workers; assures veterans they will have continued pension coverage if they return to a civilian job after military service; and makes pension benefits safer and more secure for millions of employees of State and local governments. The pension provisions in the Act are not perfect -- they provide a smaller share of benefits to lower and middle wage workers than I proposed. But they are a significant step in the right direction.

Third, the Act gives a boost to small business by increasing the amount of capital that small businesses can write off as an expense. I proposed a \$15,000 increase in 1993 in order to encourage the kind of investment that creates new growth and jobs. The Congress passed half of what we advocated then and this legislation gives us the other half. Although the measure in this Act is phased in more slowly than I proposed, it will still give small businesses a good incentive for capital investment.

Fourth, the Act extends the research tax credit, an important measure for a high-tech economy that will retain its competitive edge in the 21st century only if we remain committed to innovation and the research that underlies it. I wanted the Congress to go further by reinstating the research credit retroactively to July 1, 1995, when it last expired, and making it permanent. But this extension, through May of next year, is an important step forward.

Fifth, the Act extends a tax incentive for businesses that train and educate their employees. That incentive excludes from an employee's taxable income as much as \$5,250 of educational assistance provided by an employer. Such assistance is another key element in maintaining U.S. competitiveness because a better trained, better educated work force is vital to achieving higher productivity. I regret that the Congress failed to make this incentive permanent and that it has eliminated the incentive for post-graduate education. But in extending the incentive for undergraduate education through May 1997, the Act takes a useful step.

Sixth, by replacing the expiring Targeted Jobs Tax Credit (TJTC) with a new Work Opportunity Tax Credit, the Act provides

a significant incentive for employers to hire people from certain targeted groups most in need of jobs, such as high-risk youth. I am pleased to see improvements that address many of the concerns raised about implementation of the TJTC. For example, the minimum employment period required before an employer becomes eligible for the credit will promote longer, more meaningful work experiences for those hired.

As strong a piece of legislation as this is overall, however, I am concerned about three provisions, two of which I objected to when they were included in legislation I vetoed last year.

The first provision repeals the tax credit related to corporate investments in Puerto Rico and other insular areas. I urged the Congress to reform the credit and use the resulting revenue for Puerto Rico's social and job training needs. My proposal would have, over time, prevented companies from

obtaining tax benefits by merely attributing income to the islands, but it would have continued to give companies a tax credit for wages and local taxes paid and capital investments made there, as well as for earnings reinvested in Puerto Rico and qualified Caribbean Basin Initiative countries. This legislation ignores the real needs of our citizens in Puerto Rico, ending the incentive for new investment now and phasing out the incentive for existing investments. I remain committed to my proposal for an effective incentive based on real economy activity that preserves and creates jobs in underdeveloped islands, and I hope that the Congress will act to ensure that the incentive for economic activity remains in effect.

A second provision repeals a 1993 initiative of this Administration that reduces tax incentives for U.S. companies to move jobs and operations abroad. Repeal of this provision will allow businesses to avoid taxes by accumulating foreign earnings without limit.

Finally, I have reservations about a provision in the Act which makes civil damages based on nonphysical injury or illness taxable. Such damages are paid to compensate for injury, whether physical or not, and are designed to make victims whole, not to enrich them. These damages should not be considered a source of taxable income.

Notwithstanding these objections, this is important, forward-looking legislation. It gives millions of hard-pressed workers a well-deserved raise, will make adoption a reality for thousands of grateful families and children, takes a good first step toward providing adequate retirement benefits and security for employees of small businesses, and creates useful tax incentives for the benefit of small businesses and their employees. Where there are improvements yet to be made, we will continue to work with the Congress to make them.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE,
August 20, 1996.

#

Distribution:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts about legislation to raise the minimum wage.

When I took office, the economy was drifting; the unemployment rate was high and the deficit was skyrocketing. My Administration has worked hard to turn the economy around and provide opportunity for all Americans to make the most of their lives, and I am proud of the progress that has been made.

We have cut the deficit in half in just four years. Our economy has more than 10 million new jobs. The combined unemployment, inflation, and mortgage rate is now at its lowest level in 27 years, ^{and} we have halted the decade-long slide in real hourly earnings. But this is a record to build on, not to sit on.

As our economy grows, we must ensure that our lowest-paid workers keep up. This important legislation provides a badly needed pay raise for millions of Americans and their families who struggle to make ends meet while working at the minimum wage. This Act boosts the minimum wage in two steps -- a 50 cent increase from \$4.25 to \$4.75 an hour that takes effect October 1, followed by an additional 40-cent rise to \$5.15 an hour on September 1, 1997. This increase, passed with bipartisan support in the House and Senate, will help some 10 million of our hardest pressed working families build a better future.

For a full-time minimum wage worker, the increase would mean an extra \$1,800 per year -- enough money for the average family to pay for groceries for seven months. Nearly two dozen independent academic studies show that a moderate increase such as this can raise wages without costing jobs, and I will continue to fight to ensure that parents who put in a full day's work will not have to bring up their children in poverty.

Thanks again for your interest in this important issue.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 26, 1996

Mr. John M. Doe
Title
Organization
Business Adr1
Business Adr2
Business City, BState BZip-BZip9

Dear John:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts about my proposal to raise the minimum wage.

When I took office, the economy was drifting; the unemployment rate was high and the deficit was skyrocketing. My Administration has worked hard to turn the economy around and provide opportunity for all Americans to make the most of their lives, and I am proud of the progress that has been made.

We have cut the deficit in half in just four years. Our economy has created ^{more than} 10 million new jobs. The combined unemployment, inflation, and mortgage rate is now at its lowest level in 27 years. And we have halted the decade-long slide in real hourly earnings. But this is a record to build on, not to sit on.

As our economy grows, we ^{must ensure} ~~need to make sure~~ that our lowest-paid workers keep up. To help these workers, I have proposed increasing the minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour, in two 45-cent stages over two years. With bipartisan support, the House and Senate have voted to pass this 90-cent increase, and I am urging Congress to send me the final version of this legislation without delay.

Ten million workers would benefit from a minimum wage increase, seven out of 10 of whom are adults. For a full-time minimum wage worker, the increase would mean an extra \$1,800 per year -- enough money for the average family to pay for groceries for seven months. Nearly two dozen independent academic studies show that a moderate increase such as this ~~one~~ can raise wages without costing jobs, and I will continue to fight to ensure that parents who put in a full day's work will not have to bring up their children in poverty.

I appreciate knowing your views as we work with Congress for swift passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

(7/26/96)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 9, 1996

Mr. John M. Doe
Title
Organization
Business Adr1
Business Adr2
Business City, BState BZip-BZip9

*proposed changes reflect
most recent congressional action*

Dear John:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts about my proposal to raise the minimum wage.

When I took office, the economy was drifting; the unemployment rate was high and the deficit was skyrocketing. My Administration has worked hard to turn the economy around and provide opportunity for all Americans to make the most of their lives, and I am proud of the progress that has been made.

We have cut the deficit in half in just four years. Our economy has created 10 million new jobs. The combined unemployment, inflation, and mortgage rate is now at its lowest level in 27 years. And we have halted the decade-long slide in real hourly earnings. But this is a record to build on, not to sit on.

As our economy grows, we've got to make sure that our lowest-paid workers keep up. To help these workers, I have proposed increasing the minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour, in two 45-cent stages over two years.* Ten million workers would benefit from a minimum wage increase, seven out of 10 of whom are adults.

~~With bipartisan support, the House has already voted to raise the minimum wage. However, if the Senate fails to act on my proposal, the minimum wage will fall to a 40-year low within a year in terms of its buying power. For a full-time minimum wage worker, my proposal would mean an extra \$1,800 per year -- that's enough money for the average family to pay for groceries for seven months. Nearly two dozen independent academic studies show that a moderate increase in the minimum wage -- like my proposal -- can raise wages without costing jobs; I am pushing for a minimum wage increase in order to ensure that parents who put in a full day's work will not have to bring up their children in poverty. If we value work and family, we ought to raise the value of the minimum wage.~~

I appreciate knowing your views as we work with Congress for swift passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

** With bipartisan support, the House and Senate have voted to pass this 90-cent increase, and I am urging Congress to send me the final version of this legislation without delay.*

(7/9/96)

/slr/draft/minimumwage.tfs

Thank you for sharing your thoughts about my proposal to raise the minimum wage.

When I took office, the economy was drifting; the unemployment rate was high and the deficit was skyrocketing. My Administration has worked hard to turn the economy around and to provide opportunity for all Americans to make the most of their lives, and I am proud of the progress that has been made.

We have cut the deficit in half in just four years. Our economy has created 10 million new jobs. The combined unemployment, inflation, and mortgage rate is now at its lowest level in 27 years. And we have halted the decade-long slide in real hourly earnings. But this is a record to build on, not to sit on.

As our economy grows, we have to make sure our lowest-paid workers keep up. To help these workers, I proposed increasing the minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour in two 45-cent stages over two years. With bipartisan support, the House and Senate voted to pass this 90-cent increase, and I have urged Congress to send me the final version of this legislation without delay. The passage of this measure will be a victory for all working Americans.

Ten million workers would benefit from a minimum wage increase, seven of 10 of whom are adults. In addition, nearly two dozen independent academic studies have shown that a moderate increase in the minimum wage -- like my proposal -- can raise wages without costing jobs. I am pushing for a minimum wage increase to ensure that parents who put in a full day's work will not have to bring up their children in poverty. If we value work and family, we ought to raise the value of the minimum wage.

I appreciate knowing your views as I work with Congress to pass this important legislation.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

25-Jul-1996 06:55pm

TO: Tracy F. Sisser

FROM: Jonathan Orszag
National Economic Council

SUBJECT: RE: minimum wage

It looks fine.

The White House Virtual Library

White House Press Release

Radio Address Of The President To The Nation

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

Embargoed For Release
Until 10:06 A.M. Edt
Saturday, July 13, 1996

Radio Address Of The President
To The Nation

Roosevelt Room

The President: Good morning. As we prepare to meet the demands of the 21st century, I believe our goal must be to offer opportunity to all Americans, to demand responsibility from all Americans, and to come together as a community -- to strengthen our shared values and to build a better future together. That is how we will meet our challenges.

This past week, those values were at work on Capitol Hill. Democrats and Republicans produced a bipartisan breakthrough for those Americans working hard to make the most of their own lives. On Tuesday, the Senate voted to pass a 90-cent increase in the **minimum wage**.

It's about time. You can't raise a family on \$4.25 an hour, and if we don't raise it, the **minimum wage** will fall to a 40-year low this year in terms of what it will buy. So I congratulate the Republican members of Congress who joined with the Democrats to honor work and family, opportunity and responsibility, by voting to give **minimum wage** workers a raise. They should send me the final legislation quickly, without delay. That will be a victory for both parties, and more important, for all working Americans.

The passage of the **minimum wage** shows what can happen when we're united, when we reach across party lines, when we work together. This can signify a new spirit of cooperation coming from Capitol Hill. If we continue this spirit, we can meet our other challenges as well.

No challenge is more important than replacing our broken welfare system. Throughout my presidency I've been determined to

enact reform that requires welfare recipients to work, provides child care, imposes time limits, strengthens child support enforcement by cracking down on deadbeat parents, requires teen mothers to stay in school as a condition of welfare. When necessary, I've acted without Congress. Our administration has approved 67 separate welfare reform experiments in 40 states to move people from welfare to work.

Fully three-quarters of all welfare recipients are living under new rules right now. The New York Times has called it, a quite revolution in welfare. Today, 1.3 million fewer people are on welfare than the day I took office, and child support collections are up 40 percent.

For three and a half years I've worked with Congress to craft legislation that replaces welfare with work. For months, the Republicans insisted that welfare reform be attached to a plan I strongly feel is misguided -- to repeal Medicaid's guarantee of quality health care for elderly Americans, poor children, pregnant women and people with disabilities. I'm determined to make welfare reform the law of the land, but I've also made it clear that I will not allow Medicaid to be destroyed, and I don't care what bill it's attached to.

This week the Republican leaders in Congress announced that they are ready to work with me to pass a straightforward welfare reform bill that I can sign into law, instead of sending me legislation they know I'll veto. This can be a real breakthrough, a genuine turning point. We are very close to replacing a broken welfare system with one that requires work, offers opportunity, and demands responsibility. If we work hard and work together we should now be able to pass real welfare reform, and do it very soon.

Already bipartisan legislation has been proposed in the Senate by Democrat John Breaux and Republican John Chafee, and in the House by Republican Mike Castle and Democrat John Tanner. These are good, strong bills. They would end welfare as we know it. They should be the basis for quick agreement between the parties. And I look forward to having a bipartisan welfare reform bill within the next month.

We should also extend this same spirit to our other pressing challenges as well. We should pass the Kassebaum-Kennedy health insurance reform bill, which could benefit 25 million Americans by saying that you don't lose your health insurance when you change jobs or just because someone in your family has been sick. In its strongest form, this bill passed the Senate unanimously. But for months it slowed to a crawl as Republicans insisted on an untested and unlimited proposal for so-called medical savings accounts that have nothing to do with the fundamental purposes of Kennedy-Kassebaum reforms. So I urge them to reject the political games and let's come to a quick agreement.

We should also reform our illegal immigration laws. I support legislation that builds on our efforts to restore the rule of law to our borders, ensures that American jobs are reserved for legal workers, and boosts deportation of criminal aliens. But some insist on kicking the children of illegal immigrants out of school. Every major law enforcement organization says this could lead to more crime. So let's put aside this punitive measure and reform our illegal immigration laws now.

It's no secret that this is a political year. And there

will be plenty of time to discuss our differences in the months to come. But our nation faces challenges that cannot wait until November -- real welfare reform, a **minimum wage** increase, access to health insurance, stronger immigration laws. We can achieve all these things now if we work together.

I look forward to working with Majority Leader Lott, Speaker Gingrich and the Democratic leaders of Congress to do the people's business in the coming weeks. If we're willing to put our differences aside for the sake of the American people, we can make this a time of genuine achievement for our nation. It would not only be good for both parties, it would be very good for America.

Thanks for listening.

End

Return to the main page
Return to the Virtual Library
The White House Help Desk

To comment on this service: feedback@www.whitehouse.gov

July 9, 1996

Mr. John M. Doe
Title
Organization
Business Adr1
Business Adr2
Business City, BState BZip-BZip9

Dear John:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts about my proposal to raise the minimum wage.

When I took office, the economy was drifting; the unemployment rate was high and the deficit was skyrocketing. My Administration has worked hard to turn the economy around and provide opportunity for all Americans to make the most of their lives, and I am proud of the progress that has been made.

10 We have cut the deficit in half in just four years. Our economy has created ~~more~~ ~~than~~ 9 million new jobs. The combined unemployment, inflation, and mortgage rate is now at its lowest level in 27 years. And we have halted the decade-long slide in real hourly earnings. But this is a record to build on, not to sit on.

As our economy grows, we've got to make sure that our lowest-paid workers keep up. To help these workers, I have proposed increasing the minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour, in two 45-cent stages over two years. Ten million workers would benefit from a minimum wage increase, seven out of 10 of whom are adults.

With bipartisan support, the House has already voted to raise the minimum wage. However, if the Senate fails to act on my proposal, the minimum wage will fall to a 40-year low within a year in terms of its buying power. For a full-time minimum wage worker, my proposal would mean an extra \$1,800 per year -- that's enough money for the average family to pay for groceries for seven months. Nearly two dozen independent academic studies show that a moderate increase in the minimum wage -- like my proposal - can raise wages without costing jobs. I am pushing for a minimum wage increase in order to ensure that parents who put in a full day's work will not have to bring up their children in poverty. If we value work and family, we ought to raise the value of the minimum wage.

I appreciate knowing your views as we work with Congress for swift passage of this important legislation.

MAIL: 19864489

FROM: TRACYS

TO: BOBBYH, DANB, GLORAC, JIMD, JULIAB, MARYLOUM

CC..:

DATE: 09 Jul 1996

TIME: 11:35AM

SUBJ: update for forms on # of jobs created

According to a recent statement by the President, the number of jobs that have been created is up to ten million. Please update the letters in the p-series that include this figure.

According to your search last time, these letters included:

p-208

p-219

p-227

p-231

p-305

p-1000

p-2018

yp-90

yp-041a

yp-041

```
.....Text.Information.....
Text.Name: ma/robo/p/p-231
Per Descriptn: MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE
:
Envelope.: normal.env
----- Start Search Opening...: p.cgtimes.open
Edited..| Owne Closing...: p.basic.close
09/05/95| glor Enclosure:
08/15/95| glor
05/23/95| glor Num Pages: 1
05/31/96| glor Owner....: gloriac
02/07/95| glor Access...: GROUP
06/18/96| glor Created...: 02-29-96
----- 04/24/96| glor Edited...: 06-18-96
11/30/95| glor Last Used: 07-09-96
07/09/96| glor Volume...: 726
06/12/96| glor Env/Label: E
09/14/93| maur On Hold...: Y 07/09/19
07/29/94| glor Restrict.: N
.....Subjects.....
LAB.MIN.W Labor- Minimum Wage
.....Using.Descriptions.....
```

MAIL: 1103374

FROM: GLORIAN

..:ADAMS, ALICEP, AMANDAD, ANNAW, ANNEB, ANNIES,
BARBARAG, BERNYG, BETTYH, BOBBYH, BROWNM, CARMENF,
CLAIREP, COLLEENC, CYRILJ, DANM, DAVIDB, DEBBIEB,
DEBRAW, DELORESB, DIANEI, ELLYS, EMILYC, GEORGEB,
GLADYSO, GLORIAN, GREGGT, GUSL, GUYK, GWYNF,
JANEC, JANJ, JANV, JEANB, JEANM, JEFFD, JEFFH,
JILLM, JIMD, JOANNEV, JOSHUAR, JUDYH, JULIAB,
KAMILLAK, KYLEB, LANAD, LEANNEJ, LESLIEA, LIANEM,
LINDSAYG, MARYB, MARYLOUM, MAUREENH, MELANIEP,
MIKES, MOLLYS, NEERAB, PHILW, PHYLLISB, RAYG,
ROGERG, SARAH, SARAL, SETHM, SHARONL, SHIRLEYS,
STEVEH, TRACYS, TRUDYR, VIOLAB, WILDENAP, YPVOL1,
YPVOL2, YPVOL3, YPVOL4, YPVOL5, YPVOL6, YPVOL7,
YPVOL8, YPVOL9

CC..:

DATE: 09 Jul 1996

TIME: 01:41PM

SUBJ: P-208; P-231; P-2018; YP-041; YP-041a; YP-090

The following Presidential Letters are on HOLD:

P-208 -- Views re Administration's Economic Strategy/Policy

✓ P-231 -- Minimum Wage Increase

P-2018 -- Budget/Shutdown/Continuing Resolution

The following Young Presidential Letters are on HOLD:

YP-041 -- Taxes

YP-041a -- Economy

YP-090 -- Working with Congress

Reason: to update number of jobs created

The Master Form Letter Index has been updated.

.....Text.Information.....

Per Text.Name: ma/robo/p/p-231
 Descriptn: MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

:
 Envelope.: normal.env
 Opening...: p.cgtimes.open
 Closing...: p.basic.close
 Enclosure:

 Start Search

Edited..	Owne
09/05/95	glor
08/15/95	glor
05/23/95	glor
05/31/96	glor
02/07/95	glor
06/18/96	glor
04/24/96	glor
11/30/95	glor
07/09/96	glor
06/12/96	glor
09/14/93	maur
07/29/94	glor

Num Pages: 1
 Owner....: gloriac
 Access...: GROUP
 Created...: 02-29-96
 Edited...: 06-18-96
 Last Used: 07-09-96
 Volume...: 726
 Env/Label: E
 On Hold...: Y 07/09/19
 Restrict.: N

.....Subjects.....
 LAB.MIN.W Labor- Minimum Wage

.....Using.Descriptions.....

MAIL: 19864489

FROM: TRACYS

TO: BOBBYH, DANB, GLORIAN, JIMD, JULIAB, MARYLOUM

CC..:

DATE: 09 Jul 1996

TIME: 11:35AM

SUBJ: update for forms on # of jobs created

According to a recent statement by the President, the number of jobs that have been created is up to ten million. Please update the letters in the p-series that include this figure.

According to your search last time, these letters included:

p-208

p-219

p-227

p-231

p-305

p-1000

p-2018

yp-90

yp-041a

yp-041

00874.....Send.Mail.Message.....

TO: ADAMS
ALICEP
AMANDAD
ANNAW
ANNIES

Post Date: 06/24/1996
Post Time: 07:57AM
Expires...: 07/09/1996
Type.....: MAIL
Hold.....: N

Subject: P-231

.....Message.....

The following Presidential Letter has been RELEASED:

P-231 -- Minimum Wage Increase

The Master Form Letter Index has been updated.

```
.....Text.Information.....
Text.Name: ma/robo/p/p-231
Per Descriptn: MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE
:
Envelope.: normal.env
Start Search Opening..: p.cgtimes.open
Closing..: p.basic.close
Edited.. Owne Enclosure:
05/23/95 glor
05/31/96 glor
02/07/95 glor Num Pages: 1
06/18/96 glor Owner....: gloriac .....Subjects.....
04/24/96 glor Access...: GROUP LAB.MIN.W Labor- Minimum Wage
11/30/95 glor Created..: 02-29-96
--- 05/15/96 glor Edited...: 06-18-96 .....Using.Descriptions.....
06/12/96 glor Last Used:
09/14/93 maur Volume...:
07/29/94 glor Env/Label: E
06/07/96 glor On Hold..: N
06/07/96 glor Restrict.: N
```

Form Letter Tracking

Code: P-231

Topic: Minimum wage increase

PLM Writer: JEFF DALRY

Doc. Name & Dir. Loc.: ma/robo/p/p-231

Cleared by: Mark Menchik / JMB

Jon Orszag, NEZ 5/20
5/23 (w/changes)

Comments:

New form
Revision

			Date	Initial
LLA	Hold/Created		2/14	JPD
LLA	Assigned			
	Written		2-20	JPD
(PLM)	Referred for Clearance		2-20	JPD
	Clearance Rec/Final Sub		3-7	JPD
LLA	To Review	4/17 ^{still ok} 4/13	3/8	JB
JS	Reviewed		4/11	JB
LLA	To Mail Analysis	6/13 JMB		
(MA)	Entered	6/14 5/24 6/13 5/23/96	4/16/96	GPI
LLA	To Director	6/14 5/23 JMB		
JD/JM	Final Director's Approval	JMB	4/14	JPD
LLA	To Jim for West Wing			
(WW)	West Wing Approval			
MH	To Mail Analysis for Activation		6/14	JMB
(MA)	Activated		6/19 6/24	JMB

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 18, 1996

Mr. John M. Doe
Title
Organization
Business Adr1
Business Adr2
Business City, BState BZip-BZip9

Dear John:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts about my proposal to raise the minimum wage.

When I took office, the economy was drifting; the unemployment rate was high and the deficit was skyrocketing. My Administration has worked hard to turn the economy around and provide opportunity for all Americans to make the most of their lives, and I am proud of the progress that has been made.

We have cut the deficit in half in just four years. Our economy has created more than 9 million new jobs. The combined unemployment, inflation, and mortgage rate is now at its lowest level in 27 years. And we have halted the decade-long slide in real hourly earnings. But this is a record to build on, not to sit on.

As our economy grows, we've got to make sure that our lowest-paid workers keep up. To help these workers, I have proposed increasing the minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour, in two 45-cent stages over two years. Ten million workers would benefit from a minimum wage increase, seven out of 10 of whom are adults.

With bipartisan support, the House has already voted to raise the minimum wage. However, if the Senate fails to act on my proposal, the minimum wage will fall to a 40-year low within a year in terms of its buying power. For a full-time minimum wage worker, my proposal would mean an extra \$1,800 per year -- that's enough money for the average family to pay for groceries for seven months. Nearly two dozen independent academic studies show that a moderate increase in the minimum wage -- like my proposal -- can raise wages without costing jobs. I am pushing for a minimum wage increase in order to ensure that parents who put in a full day's work will not have to bring up their children in poverty. If we value work and family, we ought to raise the value of the minimum wage.

I appreciate knowing your views as we work with Congress for swift passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,



(6/18/96)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 14, 1996

Mr. John M. Doe
Title
Organization
Business Adr1
Business Adr2
Business City, BState BZip-BZip9

Dear John:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts about my proposal to raise the minimum wage.

When I took office, the economy was drifting; the unemployment rate was high and the deficit was skyrocketing. My Administration has worked hard to turn the economy around and provide opportunities for all Americans to make the most of their lives, and I am proud of the progress that has been made.

We have cut the deficit in half in just four years. Our economy has created more than 9 million new jobs. The combined unemployment, inflation, and mortgage rate is now at its lowest level in 27 years. And we have halted the decade-long slide in real hourly earnings. But this is a record to build on, not to sit on.

As our economy grows, we've got to make sure that our lowest-paid workers keep up. To help these workers, I have proposed increasing the minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour, in two 45-cent stages over two years. Ten million workers would benefit from a minimum wage increase, seven out of 10 of whom are adults.

With bipartisan support, the House has already voted to raise the minimum wage. However, if the Senate fails to act on my proposal, the minimum wage will fall to a 40-year low within a year in terms of its buying power. For a full-time minimum wage worker, my proposal would mean an extra \$1,800 per year -- that's enough money for the average family to pay for groceries for seven months. Nearly two dozen independent academic studies show that a moderate increase in the minimum wage -- like my proposal -- can raise wages without costing jobs. I am pushing for a minimum wage increase in order to ensure that parents who put in a full day's work will not have to bring up their children in poverty. If we value work and family, we ought to raise the value of the minimum wage.

I appreciate knowing your views as we work with Congress for swift passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,



(6/14/96)

Does not need to go back

to Todd

See

editz

million
million

Amos

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 24, 1996

Mr. John M. Doe
Title
Organization
Business Adr1
Business Adr2
Business City, BState BZip-BZip9

Dear John:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts about my proposal to raise the minimum wage.

When I took office, the economy was drifting; the unemployment rate was high and the deficit was skyrocketing. ~~In the last three years~~ My Administration has worked hard to turn the economy around and provide opportunities for all Americans to make the most out of their own lives, and I am proud of the progress that has been made.

~~My 1993 economic plan will cut the deficit in half in just four years.~~ Our economy has created ~~8.5~~ million new jobs. The combined unemployment, inflation, and mortgage rate is now at its lowest level in 27 years, and we have halted the decade-long slide in real hourly earnings. But this is a record to build on, not to sit on.

As our economy grows, we've got to make sure that our lowest-paid workers keep up. To help these workers, I have proposed increasing the minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour, in two 45-cent stages over two years. Ten million workers would benefit from a minimum wage increase, seven out of 10 of whom are adults.

With bipartisan support, the House has already voted to raise the minimum wage. ~~So~~ ^{However,} if the Senate fails to act on my proposal, the minimum wage will fall to a 40-year low within a year in terms of its buying power. For a full-time minimum wage worker, my proposal would mean an extra \$1,800 per year -- that's enough money for the average family to pay for groceries for seven months. Nearly two dozen independent academic studies show that a moderate increase in the minimum wage -- like my proposal -- can raise wages without costing jobs. I am pushing for a minimum wage increase in order to ensure that parents who put in a full day's work will not have to bring up their children in poverty. ~~As I have said many times,~~ ^{if} we value work and family, we ought to raise the value of the minimum wage.

I appreciate knowing your views as we work with Congress for swift passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

(5/24/96)

We have cut the deficit in half in just four years.

INSERT

Will be over 9mm as of today (6-6) I believe

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 23, 1996

*Charges from NEC
Jon Orszag
5/23*

Mr. John M. Doe
Title
Organization
Business Adr1
Business Adr2
Business City, BState BZip-BZip9

Dear John:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts about my proposal to raise the minimum wage.

When I took office, the economy was drifting; the unemployment rate was high and the deficit was skyrocketing. In the last three years, my Administration has worked hard to turn the economy around and provide opportunities to all Americans to make the most out of their own lives, and I am proud of the progress that has been made.

My 1993 economic plan will cut the deficit in half in just four years. Our economy has created 8.5 million new jobs, the combined unemployment, inflation, and mortgage rate is now at its lowest level in 27 years, and we have halted the decade-long slide in real hourly earnings. But this is a record to build on, not to sit on.

As our economy grows, we've got to make sure that our lowest-paid workers keep up. To help these workers, I have proposed increasing the minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour, in two 45-cent stages over two years. Ten million workers would benefit from a minimum wage increase, seven out of 10 of whom are adults.

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A ~~If Congress~~ fails to act on my proposal, the minimum wage will fall to a 40-year low within a year in terms of its buying power. For a full-time minimum wage worker, my proposal would mean an extra \$1,800 per year -- that's enough money for the average family to pay for groceries for seven months. Nearly two dozen independent academic studies show that a moderate increase in the minimum wage -- like my proposal -- can raise wages without costing jobs. I am pushing for a minimum wage increase in order to ensure that parents who put in a full day's work will not have to bring up their children in poverty. As I have said many times, if we value work and family, we ought to raise the value of the minimum wage.

I appreciate knowing your views as we work with Congress for swift passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,



(5/23/96)

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

10-Jun-1996 03:17pm

TO: Tracy F. Sisser

FROM: Pauline M. Abernathy
National Economic Council

SUBJECT: RE: Jobs creation figures

9.7 million as of Friday. It will change again in a month.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts about my proposal to raise the minimum wage.

When I took office, the economy was drifting; the unemployment rate was high and the deficit was skyrocketing. In the last three years, my Administration has worked hard to turn the economy around and provide opportunities to all Americans to make the most out of their own lives, and I am proud of the progress that has been made.

NEZ
draft NEZ
5/23/96

My 1993 economic plan will cut the deficit in half in just four years. Our economy has created 8.5 million new jobs, the combined unemployment, inflation, and mortgage rate is now at its lowest level in 27 years, and we have halted the decade-long slide in real hourly earnings. But this is a record to build on, not to sit on.

As our economy grows, we've got to make sure that our lowest-paid workers keep up. One way we can help right now is by raising the minimum wage. I have proposed increasing the minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour, in two 45-cent stages over two years. Ten million workers would benefit from a minimum wage increase; seven out of 10 of whom are adults.

With bipartisan support, the House has already voted to raise the minimum wage. So if the Senate fails to act, the minimum wage will fall to a 40-year low within a year in terms of its buying power. For a full-time minimum wage worker, my proposal would mean an extra \$1,800 per year -- that's enough money for the average family to pay for groceries for seven months. Nearly two dozen independent academic studies show that a moderate increase in the minimum wage -- like my proposal -- can raise wages without costing jobs.

← Change

I am pushing for a minimum wage increase in order to ensure that parents who put in a full day's work will not have to bring up their children in poverty. As I have said many times, if we value work and family, we ought to raise the value of the minimum wage.

I appreciate knowing your views as we work with the Senate on this important legislation.

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

23-May-1996 07:01pm

TO: Jonathan Orszag

FROM: Tracy F. Sisser
Presidential Correspondence

CC: James A. Dorskind

SUBJECT: minimum wage form letter

I'm trying to keep the form letter on the minimum wage current. Will we need to update this language or is it general enough to encompass the latest min. wage developments. Thanks very much.

Tracy

A PC Data File is attached. Use PCT SAD to download to your PC

/texts/slr/draft/minimumwage

Thank you for sharing your thoughts about my proposal to raise the minimum wage.

When I took office, the economy was drifting; the unemployment rate was high and the deficit was skyrocketing. In the last three years, my Administration has worked hard to turn the economy around and provide opportunities to all Americans to make the most out of their own lives, and I am proud of the progress that has been made.

My 1993 economic plan will cut the deficit in half in just four years. Our economy has created 8.5 million new jobs, the combined unemployment, inflation, and mortgage rate is now at its lowest level in 27 years, and we have halted the decade-long slide in real hourly earnings. But this is a record to build on, not to sit on.

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If Congress fails to act on my proposal, the minimum wage will fall to a 40-year low in terms of its buying power. For a full-time minimum wage worker, my proposal would mean an extra \$1,800 per year -- that's enough money for the average family to pay for groceries for seven months. Nearly two dozen independent academic studies show that a moderate increase in the minimum wage -- like my proposal -- can raise wages without costing jobs. I am pushing for a minimum wage increase in order to ensure that parents who put in a full day's work will not have to bring up their children in poverty. As I have said many times, if we value work and family, we ought to raise the value of the minimum wage.

I appreciate knowing your views as we work with Congress to ensure passage of this legislation.

S/20 Cleared ^{important} by Jon Orszag, NEZ

OK -
Jon Orszag,
NEZ

Jan 1997.

?
↑
in a
year

But since then, the minimum wage has stayed unchanged while the cost of living goes up. This year if Congress doesn't raise the minimum wage, it will drop in value to a 40-year low. That's why I proposed last year that the Congress increase the minimum wage from \$4.25 an hour to \$5.15 an hour. For a parent working full-time, this \$.90 an hour increase would help pay for groceries for seven months, or four months of rent, or months of child care. Tens of millions of Americans would benefit; 70 percent of them, adults. These are among our hardest working people. Six out of ten of them are working women, many trying to raise children and hold their families together. Others are just getting started in the work force, trying to get a hold on the first rung in the ladder; all of them trying hard to do the right thing -- to work. Raising the minimum wage would honor both work and family. We should not leave behind anyone who is willing to work hard as our country moves forward.

Now, a majority of the senators supported increase in the minimum wage. But the Republican leadership of the Senate has refused to allow the minimum wage even to come up for a vote. In fact, you need to know that a member of Congress who refuses to allow

Invalid choice - re-enter

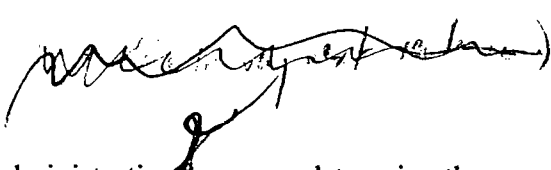
...Press RETURN

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 15, 1996

Mr. John M. Doe
Title
Organization
Business Adr1
Business Adr2
Business City, BState BZip-BZip9

Dear John:



Thank you for sharing your thoughts about my Administration's proposal to raise the minimum wage.

My Administration has worked hard to create high-paying jobs and to expand employment opportunities for all Americans. Since the beginning of 1993, our economy has generated more than 8 million jobs, the number of people unemployed has dropped by more than 15 percent, and the combined rates of unemployment and inflation have hit a 25-year low. Ninety-three percent of the job growth has been in the private sector, and the majority of jobs created have been in higher-wage occupations.

✓ Many hardworking Americans, however, are still struggling to make ends meet. Too many people are working harder for the same or lower wages. The minimum wage has reached a 40-year low in terms of real buying power. That is why I have asked Congress to raise the minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour, in two 45-cent stages. As it stands, the annual salary of a minimum wage worker is about \$8,500. Increasing the minimum wage would raise these salaries by about \$1,800, ~~or roughly~~ the amount an average family spends on groceries during a seven-month period.

Many empirical studies have shown that moderate increases in the minimum wage do not have a significant impact on employment. Given that the current minimum wage is not a living wage, we must raise it to encourage work and responsibility over dependency and welfare. By raising the minimum wage, we can make it possible for more full-time workers to support their families and live in dignity.

As we work with Congress on this important issue, I appreciate knowing your views.

Sincerely,

(4/15/96)

Dear XXXX:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts about my proposal to raise the minimum wage.

When I took office, the economy was drifting; the unemployment rate was high and the deficit was skyrocketing. In the last three years, my Administration has worked hard to turn the economy around and provide opportunities to all Americans to make the most out of their own lives. I am proud of our accomplishments. The deficit will be cut in half by the end of this fiscal year. Our economy has created 8.5 million new jobs, the combined unemployment, inflation, and mortgage rate is now at its lowest level in 27 years, and we have halted the decade-long slide in real hourly earnings. But this is a record to build on, not to sit on.



As our economy grows, we've got to make sure that our lowest-paid workers keep up. ^{To help these workers} ~~One way we can help right now is by raising the minimum wage.~~ I have proposed increasing the minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour, in two 45-cent stages over two years. Ten million workers would benefit from a minimum wage increase, seven out of 10 of whom are adults. If Congress fails to act on my proposal, the minimum wage will fall to a 40-year low in terms of its buying power. For a full-time minimum wage worker, my proposal would mean an extra \$1,800 per year -- that's enough money for the average family to pay for groceries for seven months. Nearly two dozen independent academic studies show that a moderate increase in the minimum wage -- like my proposal -- can raise wages without costing jobs.

I am pushing ^{for} a minimum wage increase in order to ensure that ^{will not have} ~~no~~ parents who puts in a full day's work ~~has~~ to bring up their children in poverty. As I have said many times, if we value work and family, we ought to raise the value of the minimum wage.

I appreciate knowing your views as we work with Congress to ^{ensure passage of this} ~~get this~~ important legislation ~~passed~~.

Sincerely,

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

Number of pages including cover 2

Date _____

To Gene Spunting Jason Goldberg

FAX Number 67878

Comments Please clear this ASAP. Thanks.

Jim

From Jim Dorskind, Special Assistant to the President

Office of the Director
Presidential Correspondence
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500
Phone: (202) 456-7610
Fax: (202) 456-2993

TRANSMISSION REPORT

THIS DOCUMENT (REDUCED SAMPLE ABOVE)
WAS SENT

** COUNT **
2

*** SEND ***

NO	REMOTE STATION I. D.	START TIME	DURATION	#PAGES	COMMENT
1	62878	4-16-96 7:50PM	3'27"	2	

TOTAL 0:03'27" 2

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

Number of pages including cover 2

Date _____

To ~~Gene Spunting~~ Jason Goldberg

FAX Number 62878

Comments Please clear this ASAP. Thanks:

Jim

From Jim Dorskind, Special Assistant to the President

Office of the Director
Presidential Correspondence
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500
Phone: (202) 456-7610
Fax: (202) 456-2993

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 29, 1996

Mr. John M. Doe
Title
Organization
Business Adr1
Business Adr2
Business City, BState BZip-BZip9

Dear John:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts about my Administration's proposal to raise the minimum wage.

My Administration has worked hard to create high-paying jobs and expand employment opportunities for all Americans. Since the beginning of 1993, our economy has generated ^{more than} ~~nearly~~ 8 million jobs, the number of people unemployed has dropped by ^{to} ~~20~~ percent, and the combined rates of unemployment and inflation have hit a 25-year low. Ninety-three percent of the job growth has been in the private sector, and the majority of jobs created ~~have~~ ^{been} in higher-wage occupations.

Many hardworking Americans, however, are still struggling to make ends meet. Too many people are working harder for the same or lower wages. ~~Currently, the~~ minimum wage has reached a 40-year low in terms of real buying power. That is why I have asked Congress to raise the minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour, in two 45-cent stages. As it stands, the annual salary of a minimum wage worker is about \$8,500. Increasing the minimum wage would raise these salaries by about \$1,800, or roughly ^{what the} ~~the~~ average family spends on groceries during a seven-month period.

Many empirical studies have shown that moderate increases in the minimum wage do not have a significant impact on employment. Given that the current minimum wage is not a living wage, we must raise it to encourage work and responsibility over dependency and welfare. By raising the minimum wage, we can make it possible for more full-time workers to support their families and live in dignity.

As we work with Congress on this important issue, I appreciate knowing your views.

Sincerely,

(2/29/96)

Please make this one change
Sept 3-7

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

20-Feb-1996 02:24pm

TO: ~~Laura J. Houseman~~ *D Conne*
FROM: Randolph M. Lyon
Office of Mgmt and Budget, EP
CC: Ophelia D. West
Renee Austin
SUBJECT: Presidential Letters

We have looked at the two draft letters that you faxed over. We would make some minor factual changes to them.

In the longer, minimum wage, letter, we would say that "the number of people unemployed has dropped by more than 15 percent" [instead of 20 percent].

In the letter on interest rates, we would change say "more than seven times the monthly private sector job growth rate" [not eight].

I hope this is helpful.

*Call Ophelia
Thanks*

Jon -

~~6802~~

2806

P-231 Minimum Wage Increase

Thank you for sharing your thoughts about my Administration's proposal to raise the minimum wage.

My Administration has worked hard to create ^{nearly} high-paying jobs and expand employment opportunities for all Americans. Since the beginning of 1993, our economy has generated ⁸ 7 million jobs, the number of people unemployed has dropped by ~~20~~ percent, and the combined rates of unemployment and inflation have hit a 25-year low. ^{more than 15} Ninety-three percent of the job growth has been in the private sector, and the majority of jobs created have been in higher-wage occupations.

Many hardworking Americans, however, are still struggling to make ends meet. Too many people are working harder for the same or lower wages. ~~If we don't act now, the minimum wage will be at a 40-year low next year,~~ ^{currently,} in terms of real buying power. That is why I have asked Congress to raise the minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour, in two 45-cent stages. As it stands, the annual salary of a minimum wage worker is \$8,500. ^{has reached} Increasing the minimum wage would raise these salaries by ^{about} \$1,800, or roughly what the average family spends on groceries ^{about} during a seven-month period.

Many empirical studies have shown that moderate increases in the minimum wage do not have a significant impact on employment. Given that the current minimum wage is not a living wage, we must raise it to encourage work and responsibility over dependency and welfare. By raising the minimum wage, we can make it possible for more full-time workers to support their families and live in dignity.

As we work with Congress on this important issue, I appreciate knowing your views.

~~Types~~
Please make these edits
to this letter

Jago 2-20
3-6

P-23 MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

Thank you for sharing your thoughts about my Administration's proposal to raise the minimum wage.

nearly 5

My Administration has worked hard to create high-paying jobs and expand employment opportunities for all Americans. Since the beginning of 1993, our economy has generated ~~7~~ *nearly 5* million jobs, the number of people unemployed has dropped by 20 percent, and the combined rates of unemployment and inflation have hit a 25-year low. Ninety-three percent of the job growth has been in the private sector, and the majority of jobs created have been in higher-wage occupations.

Many hardworking Americans, however, are still struggling to make ends meet. Too many people are working harder for the same or lower wages. If we don't act now, the minimum wage will be at a 40-year low next year in terms of real buying power. That is why I have asked Congress to raise the minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour, in two 45-cent stages. As it stands, the annual salary of a minimum wage worker is \$8,500. Increasing the minimum wage would raise these salaries by \$1,800, or roughly what the average family spends on groceries during a seven-month period.

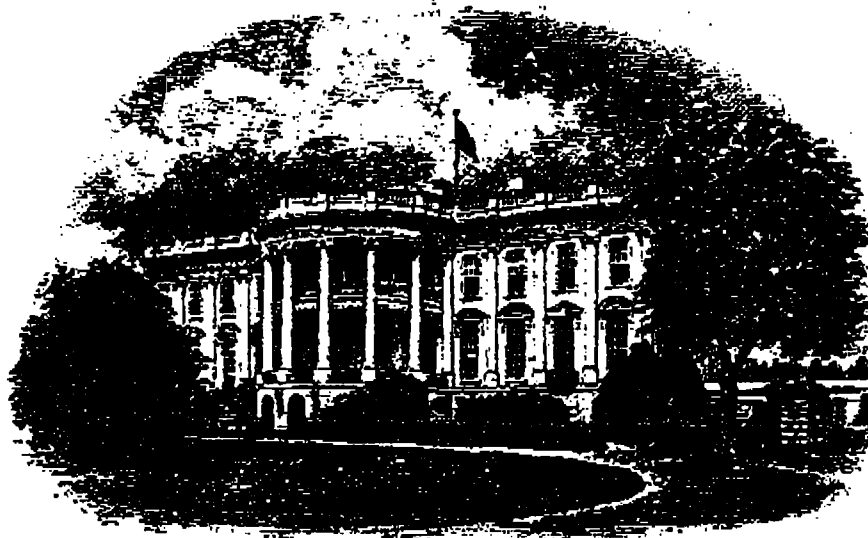
Many empirical studies have shown that moderate increases in the minimum wage do not have a significant impact on employment. Given that the current minimum wage is not a living wage, we must raise it to encourage work and responsibility over dependency and welfare. By raising the minimum wage, we can make it possible for more full-time workers to support their families and live in dignity.

As we work with Congress on this important issue, I appreciate knowing your views.

Can we say more than 8.5 with jobs?

*Conrad on
E P Staff
rue*

The White House
Office of Presidential Letters and Messages



Facsimile from Jeff Dalley C/O Jon SUIPAIN

Phone: (202) 456-5517 Fax: (202) 456-2806

To: JEANNE HOUSEMANN

No. of pages (including cover): 3 Date: 2-15

Phone: _____ Fax: 53888

Comments: COULD YOU CHECK THE LANGUAGE IN THESE TWO FORM LETTERS
AND MAKE ANY NECESSARY ALTERATIONS THANK YOU

- JON SUIPAIN

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08/15/95 glor
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Restrict.: N
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LAB.MIN.W Labor- Minimum Wage
.....Using.Descriptions.....
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85818.....Send.Mail.Message.....

ALICEP
AMANDAD
ANNIES
BARBARAG
BETTYH

Post Date: 02/14/1996
Post Time: 07:56AM
Expires...: 02/29/1996
Type.....: MAIL
Hold.....: N

Subject: P-219; P-223; P-231; P-232

.....Message.....

The following Presidential Letters are on HOLD:

- P-219 -- Views re California's Economy
- ✓ P-231 -- Minimum Wage Increase
- P-232 -- Unfunded Mandates

The following Presidential Letter is OBSOLETE:

- P-223 -- Comments/Tax Increase for 1994

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Restrict.: N
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LAB.MIN.W Labor- Minimum Wage
.....Using.Descriptions.....
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807475.....Read.Mail.Message.....

TO: BOBBYH
GLORIAN
MARYLOUM
TRUDYR

From.....: LORIAND
Post Date: 02/13/1996
Post Time: 06:12PM
Expires...: 02/28/1996
Type.....: MAIL Status: R

Subject: P-231

Please put p-231 (Minimum Wage Increase), p-219 (California Economy) and p-232 (Unfunded Mandates) on hold. Also, please obsolete p-223 and p-229.
Thank you!

MAIL: 19337911

FROM: GLORIAN

TO: ALICEP, AMANDAD, ANNIES, AYANNAB, BARBARAG, BOBBYH,
CARMENF, CYRILJ, DAVIDB, DEBBIEB, DEBORAH, DEBRAW,
DIANEI, ELISAW, ELISES, ELLENB, ELLYS, EMILYC,
ERICT, GEORGE, GINAL, GLORIAN, GREGGT, GUSL,
JACKS, JANV, JEFFH, JENNYM, JIMD, JOSEPHA, JUDITHG,
JULIAB, KAYM, KIMC, KYLEB, LANAD, LARKP, LIANEM,
LORIA, MARCB, MARKK, MARYB, MARYLOUM, MAUREENH,
MAUREENL, MIKES, NATHANH, PHILW, RAYG, ROGERG,
SETHM, SHARONL, STEVEH, TONIAB, TRUDYR

CC..:

DATE: 26 Jul 1995

TIME: 03:10PM

SUBJ: P-227; P-229; P-231; P-511b; P-2011; JD-019; JD-115b

The following Presidential Letters have been RELEASED:

- P-227 -- Interest Rates
- P-229 -- Middle Class Tax Cut
- ~~P-231~~ -- Minimum Wage Increase
- P-511b -- Foreign Policy Accomplishments

The following Presidential Letter is on HOLD:

- P-2011 -- Concern re Human Rights in Guatemala

The following Jim Dorskind letters have been CREATED (Text Pending):

- JD-019 -- Concern re Harry Wu
- JD-115b -- Requests for Affirmative Action Report

The Master Form Letter Index has been updated.

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LAB.MIN.W Labor- Minimum Wage
.....Using.Descriptions.....
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7/26

P 231 OK to

release

—

John

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 25, 1995

Mr. John M. Doe
Title
Organization
Business Adr1
Business Adr2
Business City, BState BZip-BZip9

Dear John:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts about my Administration's proposal to raise the minimum wage.

My Administration has worked hard to create high-paying jobs and expand employment opportunities for all Americans. Since the beginning of 1993, our economy has generated 7 million jobs, the number of people unemployed has dropped by 20 percent, and the combined rates of unemployment and inflation have hit a 25-year low. Ninety-three percent of the job growth has been in the private sector, and the majority of jobs created have been in higher-wage occupations.

Many hardworking Americans, however, are still struggling to make ends meet. Too many people are working harder for the same or lower wages. If we don't act now, the minimum wage will be at a 40-year low next year in terms of real buying power. That is why I have asked Congress to raise the minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour, in two 45-cent stages. As it stands, the annual salary of a minimum wage worker is \$8,500. Increasing the minimum wage would raise these salaries by \$1,800, or roughly what the average family spends on groceries during a seven-month period.

Many empirical studies have shown that moderate increases in the minimum wage do not have a significant impact on employment. Given that the current minimum wage is not a living wage, we must raise it to encourage work and responsibility over dependency and welfare. By raising the minimum wage, we can make it possible for more full-time workers to support their families and live in dignity.

As we work with Congress on this important issue, I appreciate knowing your views.

Sincerely,



(7/25/95)

P-231

July 25, 1995

Mr. John M. Doe
Address Line 1
Address Line 2
City, State 20001-Zip

7 million

Dear John:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts about my Administration's proposal to raise the minimum wage.

My Administration has worked hard to create high-paying jobs and expand employment opportunities for all Americans. Since the beginning of 1993, our economy has generated more than six million jobs, the number of people unemployed has dropped by 20 percent, and the combined rates of unemployment and inflation have hit a 25-year low. Ninety-three percent of the job growth has been in the private sector, and the majority of jobs created have been in higher-wage occupations.

Many hardworking Americans, however, are still struggling to make ends meet. Too many people are working harder for the same or lower wages. If we don't act now, the minimum wage will be at a 40-year low next year in terms of real buying power. That is why I have asked Congress to raise the minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour, in two 45-cent stages. As it stands, the annual salary of a minimum wage worker is \$8,500. Increasing the minimum wage would raise these salaries by \$1,800, or roughly what the average family spends on groceries during a seven-month period.

Many empirical studies have shown that moderate increases in the minimum wage do not have a significant impact on employment. Given that the current minimum wage is not a living wage, we must raise it to encourage work and responsibility over dependency and welfare. By raising the minimum wage, we can make it possible for more full-time workers to support their families and live in dignity.

As we work with Congress on this important issue, I appreciate knowing your views.

Sincerely,

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LAB.MIN.W Labor- Minimum Wage
.....Using.Descriptions.....
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. . .

MAIL: 19335196
FROM: LARKP
TO: GLORIA
CC:
DATE: 19 Jul 1995
TIME: 01:02PM
SUBJ: job stats update

Gloria - can we update the job stats to 7 million in all the form letters?
Thanks.

1068503.....Send.Mail.Message.....

ALICEP
AMANDAD
ANNIES
AYANNAB
BARBARAG

Post Date: 07/25/1995
Post Time: 10:21AM
Expires...: 08/09/1995
Type.....: MAIL
Hold.....: N

Subject: P-227; P-229; P-231

.....Message.....

The following Presidential Letters are on HOLD:

- P-227 -- Interest Rates
- P-229 -- Middle Class Tax Cut
- ~~P-231~~ -- Minimum Wage Increase

(To update the job stats)

The Master Form Letter Index has been updated.

MAIL: 19337083
FROM: LARKP
TO: GLORIAN
DATE: 25 Jul 1995
TIME: 09:52AM
SUBJ: job stats update

*** ORIGINATED BY LARKP ON 01:02PM 07/19/1995 ***

Gloria - can we update the job stats to 7 million in all the form letters?
Thanks.

*** ANNOTATED BY GLORIAN ON 07:50AM 07/25/1995 ***

I put the following letters on hold:

P-229 -- Middle Class Tax Cut
P-227 -- Interest Rates
~~P-231~~ -- Minimum Wage Increase

The other letters are already on hold:

P-1000 -- Administration's Accomplishments (can be modified when other
changes are made -- or made now, but not put thru approval process)
P-1000a -- Mid-Term Accomplishments (can be modified when other changes are
made -- or made now, but not put thru approval process)
P-219 -- Views re California's Economy (last update July 6 -- somewhere in
the approval process) -- need to update before release

Are there any others?

*** ANNOTATED BY LARKP ON 09:52AM 07/25/1995 ***

just for the record, p-208, but that's on hold too. Thanks, Gloria.

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.....Using.Descriptions.....
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TO: SHARONL
STEVEH
TONIAB
TRUDYR

Post Date: 05/23/1995
Post Time: 09:43AM
Expires..: 06/07/1995
Type.....: MAIL
Hold.....: N

Subject: P-208e; P-231; P-327a

.....Message.....

The following Presidential Letters have been RELEASED:

- P-208e -- Salary of Federal Employees/Cost of Living Reduction for Federal and Military Pay Freezes
- P-231 -- Minimum Wage Increase
- P-327a -- Entitlement Benefits for Legal Immigrants

The Master Form Letter Index has been updated.

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LAB.MIN.W Labor- Minimum Wage
.....Using.Descriptions.....
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FORM LETTER

Code: p-231

Topic: Minimum Wage

PLM Writer: Lark Parr

Document Name & Directory Location: sr/draft/minwaged

Cleared By: * Input from Theo Wore / Gene Sperling

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	New Form
<input type="checkbox"/>	Revision

- See attached note in "Comments" section

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	Written	<u>4.11</u>	<u>- 2nd draft</u>
(PLM)	Referred for Clearance	<u>4.11</u>	
	Clearance Received/Final Submitted	<u>4.25</u>	<u>gp</u>
MFL	To Review	<u>5.5</u>	<u>EJC</u>
MM	Reviewed	<u>5/9</u>	<u>dwp</u>
MFL	To Mail Analysis	<u>5-9</u>	<u>EJC</u>
(MA)	Entered	<u>5-9</u>	<u>gc</u>
MFL	To Director	<u>5/10</u>	<u>EJC</u>
JD/JM	Final Director's Approval <u>wdy</u>	<u>5/11</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
MFL	To Jim for West Wing	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
(WW)	West Wing Approval	<u>5/12</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
MFL	To Mail Analysis for Activation	<u>5-16</u>	<u>EJC</u>
(MA)	Activated	<u>5/23</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
		<u>5/23</u>	<u>gp</u>

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 22, 1995

Mr. John M. Doe
Title
Organization
Business Adr1
Business Adr2
Business City, BState BZip-BZip9

Dear John:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts about my Administration's proposal to raise the minimum wage.

My Administration has worked hard to create high-paying jobs and expand employment opportunities for all Americans. Since the beginning of 1993, our economy has generated more than six million jobs, the number of people unemployed has dropped by 20 percent, and the combined rates of unemployment and inflation have hit a 25-year low. Ninety-three percent of the job growth has been in the private sector, and the majority of jobs created have been in higher-wage occupations.

Many hardworking Americans, however, are still struggling to make ends meet. Too many people are working harder for the same or lower wages. If we don't act now, the minimum wage will be at a 40-year low next year in terms of real buying power. That is why I have asked Congress to raise the minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour, in two 45-cent stages. As it stands, the annual salary of a minimum wage worker is \$8,500. Increasing the minimum wage would raise these salaries by \$1,800, or roughly what the average family spends on groceries during a seven-month period.

Many empirical studies have shown that moderate increases in the minimum wage do not have a significant impact on employment. Given that the current minimum wage is not a living wage, we must raise it to encourage work and responsibility over dependency and welfare. By raising the minimum wage, we can make it possible for more full-time workers to support their families and live in dignity.

As we work with Congress on this important issue, I appreciate knowing your views.

Sincerely,



(5/22/95)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 17, 1995

Mr. John M. Doe
Title
Organization
Business Adr1
Business Adr2
Business City, BState BZip-BZip9

Dear John:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts about my Administration's proposal to raise the minimum wage.

My Administration has worked hard to create high-paying jobs and expand employment opportunities for all Americans. Since the beginning of 1993, our economy has generated more than six million jobs, the number of people unemployed has dropped by 20 percent, and the combined rates of unemployment and inflation have hit a 25-year low. Ninety-three percent of the job growth has been in the private sector, and the majority of jobs created have been in higher-wage occupations.

Many hardworking Americans, however, are still struggling to make ends meet. Too many people are working harder for the same or lower wages. If we don't act now, the minimum wage will be at a 40-year low next year in terms of real buying power. That is why I have asked Congress to raise the minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour, in two 45-cent stages. As it stands, the annual salary of a minimum wage worker is \$8,500. Increasing the minimum wage would raise these salaries by \$1,800, or roughly what the average family spends on groceries during a seven-month period.

Many empirical studies have shown that moderate increases in the minimum wage do not have a significant impact on employment. Given that the current minimum wage is not a living wage, we must raise it to encourage work and responsibility over dependency and welfare. By raising the minimum wage, we can make it possible for more full-time workers to support their families and live in dignity.

As we work with Congress on this important issue, I appreciate knowing your views.

Sincerely,



(5/17/95)

OK

103

511-95

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 9, 1995

Mr. John M. Doe
Title
Organization
Business Adr1
Business Adr2
Business City, BState BZip-BZip9

Dear John:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts about my Administration's proposal to raise the minimum wage.

My Administration has worked hard to create high-paying jobs and expand employment opportunities for all Americans. Since the beginning of 1993, our economy has generated more than six million jobs, the number of people unemployed have dropped by 20 percent, and the combined rates of unemployment and inflation have hit a 25-year low. Ninety-three percent of the job growth has been in the private sector, and the majority of jobs created have been in higher-wage occupations.

Many hardworking Americans, however, are still struggling to make ends meet. Too many people are working harder for the same or lower wages. If we don't act now, the minimum wage will be at a 40-year low next year in terms of real buying power. That is why I have asked Congress to raise the minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour, in two 45-cent stages. As it stands, the annual salary of a minimum wage worker is \$8,500. Increasing the minimum wage would raise these salaries by \$1,800, or roughly what the average family spends on groceries during a seven month period.

Many empirical studies have shown that moderate increases in the minimum wage do not have a significant impact on employment. Given that the current minimum wage is not a living wage, we must raise it to encourage work and responsibility over dependency and welfare. By raising the minimum wage, we can make it possible for more full-time workers to support their families and live in dignity.

As we work with Congress on this important issue, I appreciate knowing your views.

Sincerely,

(5/9/95)

slr/draft/minwage2

4.26.95

larkp

COMMENTS: [draft 2 - 4.11.95] this is draft 3, which incorporates comments from Gene Sperling/Theo Lubke, NEC. (I sent it up to NEC on 4.26 w/a 5.1 deadline, asking them to give any further input. No input was forthcoming by 5.5.)

Thank you for ^{sharing your thoughts} writing about ^{my} Administration's proposal to raise the minimum wage.

My Administration has worked hard to create high-paying jobs and expand employment opportunities for working Americans. Since the beginning of 1993 ^{our economy has generated} more than six million jobs, ~~have come into our economy~~, ^{and have} the unemployment rate has dropped 20 percent, and the combined rates of unemployment and inflation have hit a 25-year low. Ninety-three percent of the job growth has been in the private sector, and the majority of jobs created have been in higher-wage occupations.

Many hard-working Americans, however, are still struggling to make ends meet. Too many people are working harder for the same or lower wages. If we don't act now, the minimum wage will be at a 40-year low next year in terms of real buying power. That is why I have asked Congress to raise the minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour, in two 45-cent stages. As it stands, ^{now} the annual salary of a minimum wage worker is \$8,500, ~~an unlivable wage by any standards~~. Increasing the minimum wage would raise these salaries by \$1,800, or roughly what the average family spends on groceries during a seven month period.

Many empirical studies have shown that moderate increases in the minimum wage do not have a significant impact on employment. Given that the current minimum wage is not a living wage, we must raise it to encourage work and responsibility over dependency and welfare. By raising the minimum wage, we can make it possible for ^{most} full-time workers to support their families and live in dignity, ~~without adversely affecting employment~~.

As we work with Congress on this ^{important} bi-partisan issue, I appreciate knowing your views.



slr/draft/minwage2

4.11.95

larkp

COMMENTS: draft 2 -- from Issue Briefs

Thank you for writing about my Administration's proposal to raise the minimum wage.

My Administration has worked hard to create high-paying jobs and expand employment opportunities for working Americans. Since the beginning of 1993, more than six million jobs have come into our economy, the unemployment rate has dropped 20 percent, and the combined rates of unemployment and inflation ~~are at~~ a 25-year low. Ninety-three percent of the job growth has been in the private sector, and the majority of jobs created have been in higher-wage occupations.

have hit

If we don't act now,

Many hard-working Americans, however, are still struggling to make ends meet. Too many people are working harder for the same or lower wages. That is why I have asked Congress to raise the minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour, in two 45-cent stages. ~~because the minimum wage as it stands will be at a 40 year low next year in terms of real buying power.~~

Many empirical studies have shown that moderate increases in the minimum wage do not have a significant impact on employment. Given that the current minimum wage is not a living wage, we must ~~utilize the narrow margin that exists~~ to encourage work and responsibility over dependency and welfare. By raising the minimum wage, we can make it possible for full-time workers to support their families and live in dignity, without adversely affecting employment.

As we work with Congress on this bi-partisan issue, I appreciate knowing your views.

- \$8500 - annual cost in min wage
- \$10000 - increase if we raise min wage

PRINTER FONT 12_POINT_COURIER

PRINTER FONT 12_POINT_COURIER

REWARDING WORK:

THE CASE FOR INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE

"The most important thing is, you can't make a living on \$4.25 an hour. Especially if you have children, even with the working families tax cut we passed last year. In the past, the minimum wage has been a bipartisan issue, and I think it should be again. So I want to challenge you to have honest hearings on this; to get together; to find a way to make the minimum wage a living wage."

President Clinton
State of the Union Address
January 24, 1995

THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL: The President's proposal would increase the minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 over two years, through two 45 cent increases. The last increase, passed by a bipartisan vote in 1989, was also a 90 cent increase in two 45 cent stages. For a full-time, year-round worker at the minimum wage, a 90 cent increase would raise yearly income by \$1,800 -- as much as the average family spends on groceries in over 7 months.

MAINTAINING THE HISTORIC VALUE OF WORK: If the minimum wage were to stay at its current level (\$4.25), it would fall to its lowest real level in forty years. Indeed, the value of the minimum wage is now 27% lower than it was in 1979, and has fallen 45 cents in real value since its last increase in April of 1991. The first half of the President's 90 cent proposal simply restores the minimum wage to its value from the last increase.

RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE PRIMARILY HELPS ADULT WORKERS -- MOST OF WHOM RELY ON THEIR MINIMUM WAGE JOBS TO SUPPORT THEIR FAMILIES: Nearly two-thirds of minimum wage workers are adults (64%); over one third of all minimum wage workers (38%) are the sole breadwinners in their families; the average minimum wage worker brings home half of his or her family's earnings. Thus, a wage increase significantly boosts the standard of living for millions of households.

REWARDS WORK OVER WELFARE: The minimum wage increase provides another crucial measure to reward work and an additional incentive to choose work over welfare.

BETWEEN 11 MILLION AND 13 MILLION WORKERS WOULD BENEFIT FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE MINIMUM WAGE: estimated 11 million workers, paid by the hour, earn between \$4.25 and \$5.14. Research indicates that an increase in the minimum wage to \$5.15 could have a "ripple" effect on another 2.5 million workers who earn within 60 cents of the new minimum wage.

EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE SHOWS THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL CAN INCREASE WAGES WITHOUT COSTING JOBS: Over a dozen empirical studies have found that moderate increases in the minimum wage do not have a significant impact on employment. As Nobel Laureate Robert Solow stated: "[T]he evidence of job loss is weak. And the fact that the evidence is weak suggests that the impact on jobs is small."

A 90 CENT INCREASE IN THE MINIMUM WAGE WILL LIFT A FAMILY OF FOUR OUT OF POVERTY: The dramatic extension of the Earned Income Tax Credit helped lift hundreds of thousands of working families out of poverty. Yet, by 1996, even the EITC is not enough to lift above the poverty line a family of four making the minimum wage. With the 90 cent minimum wage increase, food stamps, and the EITC, a family of four with a year-round minimum wage worker would be lifted above the poverty line.

THE 90 CENT MINIMUM WAGE -- ALSO 90 CENTS -- GARNERED STRONG BIPARTISAN SUPPORT. In 1989, the minimum wage was passed by votes of 382-37 (135 Republicans) in the House, and 89-8 in the Senate (36 Republicans) and was supported by Senator Dole and Rep. Gingrich.

Staff Contact: Theo Lubke, NEC, 456-5374
Last Updated: March 13, 1995

MAIL: 17948901

FROM: GLORIAN

TO: ALICEP, AMANDAD, ANNIES, BARBARAG, BOBBYH, CARMENF,
CYRILJ, DAVIDB, DEBORAH, DEBRAW, DICKA, ELLENB,
ELLYS, EMILYC, GEORGE, GLORIAN, GREGGT, GUSL,
JANV, JEFFH, JEFFR, JENNYM, JIMD, JUDITHG, KAYM,
KIRSTENW, KYLEB, LANAD, LARKP, LORIA, MARKK,
MARKM, MARYB, MARYLOUM, MAUREENH, MAUREENL, MIKES,
MONICAM, PHILW, RAYG, ROGERG, SETHM, SHARONL,
STEVEH, TONIAB, TRUDYR

CC..:

DATE: 31 Jan 1995

TIME: 06:55PM

SUBJ: P-231

The following presidential letter has been CREATED (Text Pending):

P-231 -- Minimum Wage Increase

.....Text.Information.....	
Per	Text.Name: ma/robo/p/p-231
	Descriptn: MIMIMUM WAGE INCREASE <i>(p.charged. M. W. N. 1/2)</i>
	:
	Envelope.: normal.env
	Opening...: p.basic.open
	Closing...: p.basic.close
	Enclosure:
Start Search	
Edited..	Num Pages: 1
04/05/94	Owner....: gloriac
01/18/95	Access...: GROUP
06/24/94	Created...: 01-31-95
10/12/94	Edited...: 01-31-95
05/19/94	Last Used:
06/23/94	Volume...:
07/26/94	Env/Label: E
01/23/95	On Hold...: Y 01/31/19
12/21/94	Restrict.: N
01/31/95	
01/31/95	
08/03/93	
OwneSubjects.....
glor	LAB.MIN.W Labor- Minimum Wage
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glorUsing.Descriptions.....
aman	
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glor	

.17948756.....Read.Mail.Message.....

: GLORIAC

From.....: MAUREENL
Post Date: 01/31/1995
Post Time: 02:51PM
Expires...: 02/15/1995
Type.....: MAIL Status: R

Subject: Minimum Wage and Mexican Loan

*** ORIGINATED BY MAUREENL ON 02:06PM 01/31/1995 ***

Can we get numbers for those? Thanks.

*** ANNOTATED BY GLORIAC ON 02:39PM 01/31/1995 ***

Mexican loan -- P-2009

We haven't assigned a number to the minimum wage as yet -- want to assign P-231?????(Marylou and Bobby are not here at the moment -- at a meeting)

*** ANNOTATED BY MAUREENL ON 02:51PM 01/31/1995 ***

Thanks, Gloria. I'm sorry I forgot about the p-2009 designation. I think p-231 sounds great for minimum wage letter. Thanks.