

FOIA MARKER

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Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Communications

Series/Staff Member: Stephanie Cutter

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 20156

FolderID:

Folder Title:

[Minimum Wage Event - 3/8/00]

Stack:

S

Row:

90

Section:

6

Shelf:

1

Position:

2

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. note	[Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (1 page)	00/00/0000	b(6)
002. schedule	re: Minimum wage event (Personal) (1 page)	03/07/2000	b(6)
003. email	Stephanie Cutter to Kim Widdess re: [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (1 page)	03/07/2000	b(6)
004. email	Stephanie Cutter to Distribution List re: Minimum wage event (Personal) [partial] (1 page)	03/07/2000	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Communications
Stephanie Cutter
OA/Box Number: 20156

FOLDER TITLE:

[Minimum Wage Event - 3/8/00]

2006-0531-F
jm1831

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Support to Higher the Minimum
Wage 3/8/00 Washington, DC

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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Christine C. Lewis

(b)(6)

Sheryl Costas

(b)(6)

[001]

Gail Vause

(b)(6)

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

- tax cuts/
income
distribution
- Texas lost. false
- state by state
-

- clear in
- meet at 9:30
- call Laura
re: Kennedy

REMARKS OF CHERYL COSTAS

March 8, 2000

Good morning. My name is Cheryl Costas and I am from Canton, Bradford County, Pennsylvania. I am a working mother of four and I am also a full time student at Mansfield University. I am married, and my husband is disabled. I have been working for \$5.15 an hour, as well as lower minimum wage rates, for 22 years. For most of the last three years, I was the sole support for my family. At one point, I was working three part-time jobs to support my family, all earning \$5.15 an hour. \$5.15 an hour doesn't pay the bills, nor does it put food on the table.

Many families who are making minimum wage understand how often you must tell your children, "I am sorry, there just isn't enough money to get new clothes" or "there is not enough money to buy special treats." They understand the phone calls from bill collectors because you can't pay all your bills every month. They know the stress of working so hard but still not being able to afford even the smallest luxury of taking the kids to see a movie.

Raising the minimum wage to \$6.15 an hour may not seem like a lot and it may not solve all the problems, but it will definitely help get some bills paid and put food on the table. We working poor families ask Congress to please consider the needs of our families. With everything else on the rise in the country, we need this increase just to stay afloat. It is hard to realize how much this means to us, unless you have lived the life of making the minimum wage.

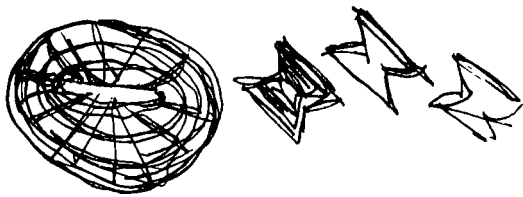
Members of Congress, we ask that you consider our plight and raise the minimum wage by a full dollar, to take effect as soon as possible. This increase will allow us to continue living,

and in some cases, to live maybe a little better than before. For most of us, however, the increase will mean just being able to keep up with the ever-rising prices of food, fuel, and necessities required just to exist in this country. Our future -- and our children's future -- is in your hands.

I am honored and pleased to share the stage today with leaders in Congress and the White House who understand well how much decisions in Washington affect our lives, and who have never forgotten or forsaken working poor families like mine. Mr. President, for the last eight years, you and Vice President Gore have fought hard to make sure that *all* working families have a chance to share in the American dream. You have fought to pass health care programs such as the CHIP health program for children and to expand Medicaid, the earned income tax credit, and Head Start. A few years ago, you pushed for passage of a minimum wage increase, and now, you are fighting to raise the minimum wage again. Your programs and policies make a real difference to working families; I know, because they make a difference for mine.

Mr. President, you and Vice President Gore deserve credit for the best economy the nation has known in more than 30 years. But you deserve extra credit for all you have done and are doing to make sure that my family and millions of other working poor families get a lift from this booming economy too. I am grateful that you are fighting to raise the minimum wage for families like mine. I know how important a dollar more an hour will be for my husband and my children and me -- and so do you.

I am honored to introduce the President of the United States, Bill Clinton.



WHSO LAYOUT FINAL

a/o 3/7/00, L. Schwartz, K. Widdess @ 3:30 p.m.

CEREMONY IN SUPPORT TO HIGHER THE MINIMUM WAGE

Wednesday, March 8, 2000

Behind Oval Office

Guest Times

Gate Opens: 9:30 a.m. East Visitor's Entrance

Invite: 10:00 a.m. East Visitor's Entrance

Principal's Times

Brief: 9:45 a.m. Oval Office

Meet: 10:05 a.m. Oval Office

Event: 10:15 a.m. Behind Oval Office

Approx. 150 Guests/Open Press/Business Attire

5-8 Social Aides

5 Volunteers (*Pat, Leslie, Dee, Sherri, Dick*)

Early Operations set up

8:00/30 a.m. WHCA set up

8:45 a.m. Press set up

9:30 a.m. IN PLACE TIME

9:30 a.m. Visitor's Entrance opens and guests proceed Behind the Oval via S. Drive.
Contact: Shercen Soghier

Members of Congress arrive West Lobby and hold in the Roosevelt Room prior to the greet.

9:45 a.m. **THE PRESIDENT** receives briefing in the Oval Office.
Contact: NEC

10:05 a.m.

THE PRESIDENT meets the following in the Oval Office.

Meet and Greet Participants

Event Participants

John Podesta
The President
Cheryl Costas, Colton Alba, PA
Rep. Richard Gephardt
Rep. David E. Bonior
Rep. Patsy T. Mink

Members of Congress

Tbd

Members of the Cabinet

Sec. Summers

10:15 a.m.

THE PRESIDENT, accompanied by event participants and members of Congress, is announced to HONORS to the Rose Garden.

PROGRAM

John Podesta makes remarks and introduces Cheryl Costas.

Cheryl Costas makes remarks and introduces **THE PRESIDENT**.

THE PRESIDENT makes remarks and introduces Rep. Gephardt.

Rep. Gephardt makes remarks and introduces Rep. Bonior.

Rep. Bonior makes remarks.

11:00 a.m.

THE PRESIDENT thanks the audience and departs.

Guests depart Southwest Gate.

SETUP: 10 x16 stage on drive by putting green; steps on all sides; press risers (4 main risers) rope & stationed; one cut away by putting green; American/POTUS flags from WHCA on far corners of stage; blue goose on stage; water at podium; announce from patio area outside POTUS office on colonnade; Brass Quintet under tree for before/after music & honors; band director on clearcom from WHCA; WHCA on clearcom with band director.

STAFFING

East Visitors Gate: Shereen Soghier + 3 interns
East Landing: 1 Volunteer to welcome guests
Sculpture Garden: 1 Volunteer to direct guests
South Grounds: 1 Volunteer to direct guests
Behind oval at event site: 2 Volunteer plus 5-8 social aides

STAGE

Toe Cards

John Podesta
THE PRESIDENT
Cheryl Costas
Rep. Gephardt
Rep. Bonior

AUDIENCE

Peach by name – seated by Cabinet Affairs
Secretary Summers
Gene Sperling
Deputy Sec. Of Labor Ed Montgomery

3 Red General

(speaker's guest plus all-cio rep) – seated by cutter
Right Reverend McKinley Young – ~~red at gate~~

Ruffles and flourishes

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

ACCOMPANIED BY CHIEF OF STAFF JOHN PODESTA,

REP. RICHARD GEPHARDT, REP. DAVID BONIOR,

CHERYL COSTAS AND MEMBERS OF THE UNITED

STATE'S CONGRESS

Hail to the chief

Ruffles and flourishes

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Hail to the chief

WHSO LAYOUT DRAFT 1
a/o 3/0/00, L. Schwartz

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Meet and Greet Participants

Event Participants

The President
Real Person
Rep. David E. Bonior,
Chavez Thompson, AFL – CIO

Rep. Richard A. Gephardt

Members of Congress

Members of the Cabinet

10:15 a.m.

THE PRESIDENT, accompanied by event participants, is announced to HONORS to the Rose Garden.

PROGRAM

THE PRESIDENT

Real Person

Rep. Bonior

~~Chavez Thompson, AFL-CIO~~

~~Rep. Gephardt or designee~~

Adam. Pearson
RP
POTUS
Bonior ↑
Hish

25 / 35
members

11:00 a.m.

THE PRESIDENT departs.

Guests depart Southwest Gate.

SETUP: 10 x 16 stage behind oval by walkway; steps on all sides; press risers (4 main risers) rope & stanchioned one cut away north east side of the area behind oval; American/POTUS flags from WHCA; blue goose on stage; water at podium; announce from patio area outside POTUS office on colonnade; Brass Quintet under tree outside garden for before/after music & honors; band director on clearcom from WHCA; WHCA on clearcom with band director.

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Toe Cards

THE PRESIDENT

Real Person

Ms. Chavez Thompson

Mr. Bonior

Mr. Gephardt or designee

ENFORCEMENT OF THE U.S. - CHINA WTO ACCESSION DEAL:

March 7, 2000

The U.S.-China WTO Accession Agreement Will Increase U.S. Leverage To Open China's Markets: Granting PNTR will give the United States broad new rights and strong mechanisms to enforce them. These WTO enforcement mechanisms are outlined below. At the same time, the Administration has already begun to identify and put into place tools that will bolster our existing monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.

The U.S.-China WTO Accession Deal Is Far-Reaching, Detailed, And Binding. China's accession to the WTO will lock in detailed commitments in virtually every sector, covering industrial goods, services, and agriculture. The Agreement also addresses non-tariff barriers like the lack of trading rights and distribution rights, and ensures that American workers and companies are protected from practices that injure U.S. industries, such as dumping and import surges. In this Agreement, China made unilateral, one-way concessions. The United States would simply maintain the market access policies we already apply to China by granting it Permanent Normal Trade Relations. China's broad commitments will be subject to enforcement by every WTO Member through binding WTO dispute settlement.

China's Commitments Will Be Enforceable Through WTO Dispute Settlement For The First Time. In no previous trade agreement has China agreed to subject its decisions to impartial review, and ultimately imposition of sanctions if necessary -- and China will not be able to block panel decisions. If China loses a dispute, it will have to change the offending practice, provide compensation, or be subject to denial of access to our market in an amount proportional to the harm it causes. The U.S. has been the most frequent user of the WTO dispute settlement mechanism, obtaining favorable results so far on 23 of the 25 complaints that we have initiated and that have been acted upon.

The United States Maintains The Right To Use The Full Range Of American Trade Laws: These include Special 301, Section 301, Section 201, and our antidumping laws, all of which continue to be effectively used to advance U.S. interests in a WTO-consistent manner.

The United States Will Gain New Leverage To Ensure Fair Trade And To Protect The U.S. Agricultural And Manufacturing Base From Import Surges, Unfair Pricing, And Abusive Investment Practices. No agreement on WTO accession has ever contained stronger measures to bolster guarantees of fair trade. This agreement addresses these concerns through:

- **Strong anti-dumping protections.** The Agreement guarantees our right to use the special antidumping methodology we apply to non-market economies for 15 years after China's accession to the WTO.
- **A China-specific safeguard.** For the first 12 years -- in addition to the existing global safeguard provisions -- China has also agreed to a country-specific safeguard that is stronger and more targeted relief than that provided under our current Section 201 law. This ensures that the U.S. can take effective action in case of increased imports of a particular product from China that cause or threaten to cause market disruption in the United States. This applies to all industries, permits us to act based on a lower showing of injury, and permits us to act specifically against imports from China.
- **Prohibitions on practices that can cost American jobs and technology.** China will no longer require U.S. companies to transfer their technology in order for U.S. companies to export or invest in China. This will better protect U.S. competitiveness and the results of U.S. research and development. In addition, China will no longer require U.S. manufacturers to export as a condition for importing inputs, to use Chinese-made parts for products sold in China, or to balance the value of their exports and imports, so as to prevent a net loss in foreign exchange. If existing contracts contain such provisions, China has committed not to enforce those contract requirements. In addition, China will not condition import approval or investment licenses on performance requirements, including offset and technology transfer requirements, or deny approval of imports or investment because there is a competing Chinese producer. This Agreement will make it significantly easier for American companies to export to China from the United States, rather than having to set up in China in order to sell products there.

China's WTO Commitments Will Increase Leverage For IP Enforcement. China has committed to implement the agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights immediately upon accession -- with no transition

period. TRIPS requires that a country make available enforcement measures and sanctions adequate to deter further infringing activity.

The U.S. Will Strengthen Its Enforcement Capabilities Through The Multilateral Nature Of The WTO. The accession will create a multilateral review mechanism to monitor all of China's implementation closely. And as these commitments come into effect, China will be subject to enforcement by all 135 WTO members, significantly diminishing China's ability to play its trading partners off against one another. In all previous disputes over Chinese compliance with agreements, notably those over intellectual property, the United States had to act alone. With China in the WTO, we will be able to work with 134 other members, many of whom will be concerned about the same issues we raise and all of whom will have the legal right to challenge China's implementation practices and seek redress.

The Specificity Of China's Commitments Will Help Ensure That China Complies. Experience with the Intellectual Property Agreements demonstrates that our agreements with China are enforced most satisfactorily when obligations are concrete, specific, and open to monitoring. Our bilateral Agreement therefore includes highly specific commitments in all areas -- including industrial goods, services, agriculture, and rules -- clear timetables for implementation, and firm end-dates for full compliance. These will allow us to carefully monitor China's compliance and present clear evidence of any failure to comply.

The United States Will Monitor Vigilantly And Enforce Aggressively. We are already preparing for an increased monitoring and enforcement effort through President Clinton's request for \$22 million in new enforcement and compliance resources for USTR, the Commerce Department, USDA, and the State Department. The President is requesting resources for the largest monitoring and enforcement effort for any agreement ever, covering China's obligations in the WTO and strong enforcement of our trade laws.

- **Tripling resources for China compliance monitoring at the Department of Commerce:** President Clinton's new initiative would triple resources dedicated to China trade compliance -- including administration of our unfair trade laws. The Department would more than double the number of compliance officers in Washington devoted to China to ensure effective enforcement of China's WTO accession commitments and other bilateral trade agreements.
- **Bolstering monitoring and enforcement efforts:** The additional resources sought for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative will strengthen its ability to ensure that the terms of our agreements are fulfilled. This initiative would create new positions in four areas of expertise -- legal, economic, geographic, and sectoral -- to be devoted to negotiating, monitoring, and enforcing trade agreements, and would significantly increase staff dedicated to China.
- **Monitoring compliance overseas:** The new Commerce/State Overseas Compliance Program provides for trade experts to monitor compliance with international trade obligations and support enforcement of U.S. trade laws, such as those involving market access issues, subsidies, dumping, and other unfair trade practices. By strengthening our capacity to gather information "on the ground" in foreign countries, this initiative would help American businesses make the most of market access opportunities and facilitate the investigation of trade agreement violations.
- **Increased enforcement for American agriculture:** The President's budget calls for providing additional resources to the U.S. Department of Agriculture to bolster its legal and technical expertise in areas covered by trade agreements and U.S. trade law. USDA monitors implementation of the WTO agreement's agricultural trade liberalization provisions and works with USTR to ensure compliance.

The Administration Will Continue To Work With The Private Sector, Congress, And China. We will continue our efforts to work closely with American workers, farmers, businesses -- and Congress -- to ensure effective monitoring and quick response. At the same time, we will seek to prevent or reduce problems by working closely with the Chinese, including through technical assistance where appropriate, to ensure they fully understand their new obligations. WTO rules will require real and meaningful changes in China's application of trade rules and policies, and consultation and training can head off problems.

The United States Will Maintain Strong Existing Laws. Nothing in this agreement undermines our commitment and ability to continue to block imports of goods made with prison labor, to maintain our export control policies, or to withdraw benefits including NTR in a national security emergency.

Minimum Wage Event
Wednesday, March 8, 2000

Message: THE PRESIDENT will call on Congress to pass a meaningful, fiscally-responsible minimum wage increase, amounting to \$1.00 over 2 years, which will help extend economic prosperity to many Americans – predominantly low wage workers and families – who continue to struggle to make ends meet. Noting the benefits to business and workers, the President will call for solid legislation that is not watered down or held hostage by special interest tax breaks and that will make a real difference in the lives of American workers. The President also will release a new report from his Council of Economic Advisers, which shows that millions of Americans earn at or near the minimum wage, of whom seventy percent are adults, and sixty percent are women. Almost half work full time, and as many are sole breadwinners struggling to raise their children on \$10,700 a year.

BRIEFING:**Time:** 9:45am - 10:00am**Location:** Oval Office**MEET &
GREET:****Time:** 10:05am – 10:15am**Location:** Oval Office**Guests:** Cheryl Costas**EVENT:****Time:** 10:15am - 11:00am**Location:** Behind the Oval Office**Backdrop:** 25-30
Members of Congress (see note)
Cheryl Costas**Cutaway:** None**Lectern:** Blue Goose**Announce:** Offstage announce of THE PRESIDENT, accompanied by John Podesta, Chief of Staff, Senator Edward Kennedy, Representative Richard Gephardt, Representative David Bonior and Cheryl Costas.

Program:	John Podesta, Chief of Staff Cheryl Costas THE PRESIDENT Representative David Bonior Senator Edward Kennedy Representative Richard Gephardt
Audience:	150 <u>Members of Congress:</u> Members are on stage Congressional staff <u>Cabinet:</u> Sec. Larry Summers Deputy Sec. Ed Montgomery, Labor Gene Sperling Dept. of Labor staff <u>Other:</u> Labor union members, labor advocacy groups

PRESS PLAN:

OPEN PRESS
Amplify state by state report data; Pitch the 2 real people to hometown media
Stakeout by Sperling, Bonior, Gephardt, 2 religious leaders.

NOTE:**Members of Congress: 26 attending, 58 pending**

Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-ND)
Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA)
Rep David Bonior (D-MI)
Rep. Harold Ford (D-TN)
Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-OH)
Rep. Jackson-Lee, Sheila (D-TX)
Rep. Johnson, Eddie Bernice (D-TX)
Rep. Kildee, Dale (D-MI)
Rep. Lampson, Nick (D-TX)
Rep. Strickland, Ted (D-OH)
Rep. Christian-Christensen, Donna M. (D-VI)
Rep. Cummings, Elijah E. (D-MD)
Rep. Deutsch, Peter (D-FL)
Rep. Ford, Jr., Harold E. (D-TN)
Rep. Underwood, Robert A. (D-GU)
Rep. Patsy Mink (D-HI)
Rep. Kanjorski, Paul E. (D-PA)
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe (D-CA)
Rep. Meek, Carrie P. (D-FL)
Rep. Baca, Joe (D-CA)
Rep. Chaka Fattah (D-PA)

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Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)
Rep. Martin Frost (D-TX)
Rep. Cardin, Benjamin L. (D-MD) [no meet and greet, but will attend]
Rep. Rodriguez, Ciro D. (D-TX)
Rep Karen Thurman (D-Fl.)—
58 pending

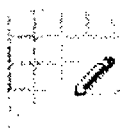
[002]

Cheryl Costas, Colton Alba, PA: Cheryl is a checkout clerk at the Colton Alba Grocery and Gas, in Colton Alba, Pennsylvania. She is 37 years old, married, and has 4 children ranging in age from 5 to 15. She recently received a raise from \$5.15 to \$5.50 per hour. She has worked at the grocery store since October 1999, and previously worked at the Dandy Mini-Mart earning minimum wage. She also receives both federal and state grants to attend Mansfield University full time and would like to earn a degree in criminal justice. She just recently cut back her hours to 16-20 hours per week to devote more time to school, but previously worked 36-40 hours per week at the grocery store. Until last year, Cheryl was the sole wage earner for her family. (b)(6) Cheryl's husband has received disability payments since 1997. In 1999, he began receiving \$925 per month in social security payments.

(b)(6)
(b)(6) The Costas family presently lives in a 12 ft. by 70 ft. trailer, and in Cheryl's words, "Things get very crowded at times." A raise in the minimum wage would help her to better provide for her family.

The President will acknowledge the support of the religious community in this effort to raise the minimum wage, specifically, Reverend McKinley Young, Ecumenical Officer of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in the District.

Scheduling Contact: Laura Schwartz
Substance Paper Contact: Patrick Dorton, Jason Furman
Press Contact: Steve Boyd
Remarks Contact: Paul Glastris
List Contact: Laura Eford



Paul D. Glastris
03/07/2000 06:38:37 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: minimum wage, latest

Draft 3/7/2000 6:35 p.m.

Glastris

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS ON RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, DC
March 8, 2000**

Acknowledgments: Sen. Edward Kennedy; Rep. Richard Gephardt; Rep. David Bonior; Cheryl Costas; John Podesta; Sec. Larry Summers; Deputy Labor Sec. Ed Montgomery; Right Rev. McKinley Young of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (and all the religious leaders who have expressed their support for raising the minimum wage).

We are here today, on this beautiful morning, in this glorious setting, on behalf of Americans like Cheryl Costas—people who don't often get a chance to see a place like this. They are people who work hard every day, stocking store shelves, washing dishes at restaurants, cleaning our offices at night, and caring for our children during the day. They are in every town and city in America, and of every racial and ethnic group. But they have one thing in common: they earn the minimum wage--and they need a raise. We're here today to call on Congress to give them one.

Ever since I ran for President back in 1992, I've had a vision of making our nation a place where everyone responsible enough to work for it could have a shot at the American Dream. And over the last seven years, with the help of a lot of people here today, we've made that vision a reality for millions of Americans. We turned the economy around with a new economic plan of fiscal discipline, expanded trade, and investment in our people. And I believe we should continue down that path, by paying off the debt for the first time since 1835, strengthening Social Security and Medicare, and investing in education, health care, and the environment. We helped millions of working Americans escape poverty by expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit, and I've asked Congress to expand it again. We helped millions of working parents take time off to care for a newborn child or a sick loved one by passing family and medical leave, and I think we ought to expand the law to cover regular visits to schools, too.

And in 1996, with bipartisan support, we raised the minimum wage in two steps over two years, to \$5.15 an hour. Now it's time to raise it again, over two years, to \$6.15 an hour. Again we have bipartisan support in Congress. And again, the Republican leadership is trying to stop us, only this time they know they can't win on the facts.

Back in 1996, Republican leaders said that a higher minimum wage was "a job killer cloaked in kindness." They warned that it would throw young minorities out of work and lead to a juvenile crime wave of "epic proportions."

Time has not been kind to their predictions, and today, I am releasing a report from my National Economic Council that puts to rest any lingering myths about the minimum wage. Since we raised the minimum wage in 1996, the economy has created over 10 million new jobs. The unemployment rate has fallen to nearly its lowest point in 30 years. The employment rate of minority youth has gone up. Juvenile crime has gone down. We now have the lowest poverty rates in 20 years and the lowest African American and Hispanic unemployment rates on record. We've cut the welfare rolls in half, and thanks in part to a higher minimum wage, millions have moved from welfare to work, and incomes are rising even for the poorest groups of Americans for the first time in decades. And last month, we achieved the longest period of economic growth in our entire history.

The new report I am releasing today also dispels another myth about the minimum wage: That those who benefit are mostly middle-class teenagers working for gas money. In fact, 70 percent are adults. Sixty percent are women. Almost half work full time. And many are sole breadwinners struggling to raise their children on \$10,700 a year.

In total, more than 10 million workers would get a pay raise if we raised the minimum wage by a dollar an hour.

No American who works full-time should raise their family in poverty. This modest increase would simply restore the real value of the minimum wage to what it was in 1982. But for a full-time worker, it would mean an extra \$2,000 a year. That's real money--enough for a family of four to buy groceries for 7 months or pay rent for 5 months.

Raising the minimum wage is the right thing to do for working families. And it's the smart thing to do for our economy. At a time when businesses are suffering labor shortages, one of the surest ways to maintain high growth with low inflation is to bring more workers into the job market. That is precisely what happens when you raise the minimum wage, as this report shows. When you increase the reward for work, people who weren't looked for jobs decide to go to work.

There are a dozen good reasons to raise the minimum wage, and not a single one not to. Even the Republican leadership understands that. So instead of arguing the facts, they're playing legislative slight-of-hand. For instance, they're using the minimum wage bill as a vehicle to repeal worker protections and pass irresponsible tax cuts that would threaten our fiscal discipline and jeopardize our ability to extend the life of Medicare and Social Security

and pay down the debt by 2013. They're also pushing to delay the minimum wage increase over three years. That would mean at least \$900 less in wages for a full-time worker making the minimum wage.

If Republican leaders make workers wait another year for their full pay raise, or hold the minimum wage bill hostage for risky tax cuts that threaten our prosperity, I will veto it. It's time for the leadership to stop their shell games. Stop nickle and diming American workers out of the dollar-an-hour raise they deserve. Send me a clean, straightforward bill to raise the minimum wage by one dollar over two years—and I'll sign it.

Raising the minimum wage by a dollar over two years is right for America, and right for people like Cheryl Costas—hard-working Americans trying to keep body and soul together. They deserve our admiration, and our support. And never have we been in a better position to provide that support.

I am deeply grateful for the historic prosperity we enjoy. But our nation cannot live up to its full potential until every American willing to work for it has a chance to share in that prosperity. Raising the minimum wage is an important step to making that happen. Now, I want to introduce someone who has been fighting for working Americans for almost 25 years in Congress, Rep. Richard Gephardt.

[following remarks by Rep. Bonior, you will step back up to podium and close the program]

Message Sent To: _____

Loretta M. Ucelli/WHO/EOP@EOP
Lindsay R. Drewel/WHO/EOP@EOP
Melissa G. Green/OPD/EOP@EOP
Joel Johnson/WHO/EOP@EOP
Carolyn T. Wu/WHO/EOP@EOP
Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP
Terry Edmonds/WHO/EOP@EOP
Patrick M. Dorton/OPD/EOP@EOP
Michele Ballantyne/WHO/EOP@EOP
Scott Hynes/WHO/EOP@EOP
Marjorie Tarmey/WHO/EOP@EOP
Anna Richter/OPD/EOP@EOP
Cathy R. Mays/OPD/EOP@EOP
Linda Ricci/OMB/EOP@EOP
Stephanie A. Cutter/WHO/EOP@EOP

REMARKS OF CHERYL COSTAS

March 8, 2000

Good morning. My name is Cheryl Costas and I am from Canton, Bradford County, Pennsylvania. I am a working mother of four and I am also a full time student at Mansfield University. I am married, and my husband is disabled. I have been working for \$5.15 an hour, as well as lower minimum wage rates, for 22 years. For most of the last three years, I was the sole support for my family. At one point, I was working three part-time jobs to support my family, all earning \$5.15 an hour. \$5.15 an hour doesn't pay the bills, nor does it put food on the table.

Many families who are making minimum wage understand how often you must tell your children, "I am sorry, there just isn't enough money to get new clothes" or "there is not enough money to buy special treats." They understand the phone calls from bill collectors because you can't pay all your bills every month. They know the stress of working so hard but still not being able to afford even the smallest luxury of taking the kids to see a movie.

Raising the minimum wage to \$6.15 an hour may not seem like a lot and it may not solve all the problems, but it will definitely help get some bills paid and put food on the table. We working poor families ask Congress to please consider the needs of our families. With everything else on the rise in the country, we need this increase just to stay afloat. It is hard to realize how much this means to us, unless you have lived the life of making the minimum wage.

Members of Congress, we ask that you consider our plight and raise the minimum wage by a full dollar, to take effect as soon as possible. This increase will allow us to continue living,

and in some cases, to live maybe a little better than before. For most of us, however, the increase will mean just being able to keep up with the ever-rising prices of food, fuel, and necessities required just to exist in this country. Our future -- and our children's future -- is in your hands.

I am honored and pleased to share the stage today with leaders in Congress and the White House who understand well how much decisions in Washington affect our lives, and who have never forgotten or forsaken working poor families like mine. Mr. President, for the last eight years, you and Vice President Gore have fought hard to make sure that *all* working families have a chance to share in the American dream. You have fought to pass health care programs such as the CHIP health program for children and to expand Medicaid, the earned income tax credit, and Head Start. A few years ago, you pushed for passage of a minimum wage increase, and now, you are fighting to raise the minimum wage again. Your programs and policies make a real difference to working families; I know, because they make a difference for mine.

Mr. President, you and Vice President Gore deserve credit for the best economy the nation has known in more than 30 years. But you deserve extra credit for all you have done and are doing to make sure that my family and millions of other working poor families get a lift from this booming economy too. I am grateful that you are fighting to raise the minimum wage for families like mine. I know how important a dollar more an hour will be for my husband and my children and me -- and so do you.

I am honored to introduce the President of the United States, Bill Clinton.

WHSO LAYOUT FINAL – UPDATE WITH PROGRAM ADDITION
a/o 3/7/00, L. Schwartz, K. Widdess @ 3:30 p.m.

CEREMONY IN SUPPORT TO HIGHER THE MINIMUM WAGE

Wednesday, March 8, 2000

Behind Oval Office

Guest Times

Gate Opens:	9:30 a.m.	East Visitor's Entrance
Invite:	10:00 a.m.	East Visitor's Entrance

Principal's Times

Brief:	9:45 a.m.	Oval Office
Meet:	10:05 a.m.	Oval Office
Event:	10:15 a.m.	Behind Oval Office

Approx. 150 Guests/Open Press/Business Attire

5-8 Social Aides

5 Volunteers (Pat, Leslie, Dee, Sherri, Dick)

Early Operations set up

8:00/30 a.m. WHCA set up

8:45 a.m. Press set up

9:30 a.m. IN PLACE TIME.

9:30 a.m. Visitor's Entrance opens and guests proceed Behind the Oval via S. Drive.
Contact: Shereen Soghier

Members of Congress arrive West Lobby and hold in the Roosevelt Room prior to the greet.

9:45 a.m. **THE PRESIDENT** receives briefing in the Oval Office.
Contact: NEC

10:05 a.m.

THE PRESIDENT meets the following in the Oval Office.

Meet and Greet Participants

Event Participants

John Podesta
The President
Cheryl Costas, Colton Alba, PA
Rep. Richard Gephardt
Sen. Ted Kennedy
Rep. David E. Bonior

Members of Congress

Tbd

Members of the Cabinet

Sec. Summers

10:15 a.m.

THE PRESIDENT, accompanied by event participants and members of Congress, is announced to HONORS to the stage on the South Drive behind the Oval Office..

PROGRAM

John Podesta makes remarks and introduces Cheryl Costas.

Cheryl Costas makes remarks and introduces **THE PRESIDENT**.

THE PRESIDENT makes remarks and introduces Rep. Gephardt.

Rep. Gephardt makes remarks and introduces Sen. Kennedy.

Sen. Kennedy makes remarks and introduces Rep. Bonior.

Rep. Bonior makes remarks.

11:00 a.m.

THE PRESIDENT thanks the audience and departs.

Guests depart Southwest Gate.

SETUP: 10 x16 stage on drive by putting green; steps on all sides; press risers (4 main risers) rope & stationed; one cut away by putting green; American/POTUS flags from WHCA on far corners of stage; blue goose on stage; water at podium; announce from patio area outside POTUS office on colonnade; Brass Quintet under tree for before/after music & honors; band director on clearcom from WHCA; WHCA on clearcom with band director.

STAFFING

East Visitors Gate: Shereen Soghier + 3 interns
East Landing: 1 Volunteer to welcome guests
Sculpture Garden: 1 Volunteer to direct guests
South Grounds: 1 Volunteer to direct guests
Behind oval at event site: 2 Volunteer plus 5-8 social aides

STAGE

Toe Cards

John Podesta

THE PRESIDENT

Cheryl Costas

Rep. Gephardt

Sen. Kennedy

Rep. Bonior

AUDIENCE

Peach by name – seated by Cabinet Affairs

Secretary Summers

Gene Sperling

Deputy Sec. Of Labor Ed Montgomery

3 Red General

(speaker's guest plus afl-cio rep) – seated by cutter

Right Reverend McKinley Young – 

Ruffles and flourishes

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

ACCOMPANIED BY CHIEF OF STAFF JOHN PODESTA,

REP. RICHARD GEPHARDT, REP. DAVID BONIOR,

CHERYL COSTAS AND MEMBERS OF THE UNITED

STATE'S CONGRESS

Hail to the chief

Ruffles and flourishes

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

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STATE'S CONGRESS

Hail to the chief

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
003. email	Stephanie Cutter to Kim Widdess re: [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (1 page)	03/07/2000	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Communications
Stephanie Cutter
OA/Box Number: 20156

FOLDER TITLE:

[Minimum Wage Event - 3/8/00]

2006-0531-F
jm1831

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]



Stephanie A. Cutter
03/07/2000 03:45:42 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Kim B. Widdess/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: real person info

here's the real person info.

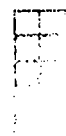
Cheryl Costas

(b)(6)

[003]

I cleared her in for 9:30 to west lobby. Her friend's info. is below. i'm waiting on info. on the AFLCIO person.

----- Forwarded by Stephanie A. Cutter/WHO/EOP on 03/07/2000 03:44 PM -----



Brian V. Kennedy
03/07/2000 02:16:49 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Stephanie A. Cutter/WHO/EOP@EOP, Patrick M. Dorton/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject:

Chris Owens gave me the following information. Cheryl will be traveling with her friend, Gail Vansise
(b)(6) They will arrive at 11:14 pm this evening at National Airport and will be staying
at the Governor's House Hotel, 1615 Rhode Island Avenue.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
004. email	Stephanie Cutter to Distribution List re: Minimum wage event (Personal) [partial] (1 page)	03/07/2000	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Communications
Stephanie Cutter
OA/Box Number: 20156

FOLDER TITLE:

[Minimum Wage Event - 3/8/00]

2006-0531-F
jm1831

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

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- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Stephanie A. Cutter
03/07/2000 10:11:35 AM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc: Jennifer M. Palmieri/WHO/EOP@EOP
Subject: minimum wage real person

Here's a suggestion for a real person. The AFLCIO will fly her down here if we decide we want her.

Cheryl Costas, Colton Alba, PA

Cheryl is a checkout clerk at the Colton Alba Grocery and Gas, in Colton Alba, Pennsylvania. She is 37 years old, married, and has 4 children ranging in the age of 5 to 15. She currently recently received a raise from \$5.15 to \$5.50 per hour.

She has worked at the grocery store since October 1999, and before that she worked at the Dandy Mini-Mart making minimum wage. She is also receiving both federal and state grants to go to school full time at Mansfield University, and would like to get her degree in criminal justice. She just recently cut back her hours to 16-20 hours a week to devote more time to school, but previously worked 36-40 hours at the grocery store.

Until last year, Cheryl was the sole wage earner for her family. Her husband has been on disability since 1997. (b)(6) In 1999, he began receiving \$925 in social security payments each month.

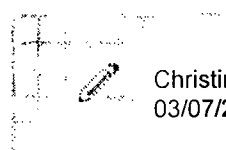
(b)(6)

The Costas family lives in a 12 ft. by 70 ft. trailer, and in Cheryl's words, "Things get very crowded at times." A raise in the minimum wage would help her provide better for her family.

[004]

Message Sent To:

Michael K. Gehrke/WHO/EOP@EOP
Patrick M. Dorton/OPD/EOP@EOP
Loretta M. Ucelli/WHO/EOP@EOP
Karen Tramontano/WHO/EOP@EOP
Joel Johnson/WHO/EOP@EOP



Christine L. Anderson
03/07/2000 04:53:19 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: Letter from the President: Minimum Wage

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 7, 2000

TEXT OF A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT
TO THE SPEAKER AND DEMOCRATIC LEADER OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE
MAJORITY AND DEMOCRATIC LEADERS OF THE SENATE

March 7, 2000

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Leader:)

I am writing this letter to strongly encourage Congress to pass clean, straightforward legislation to raise the minimum wage by \$1 -- from \$5.15 to \$6.15 -- in two equal steps. Working families across this country deserve an increase that simply restores the real value of the minimum wage to what it was in 1982.

Those who argue this modest pay raise would harm the economy could not be more wrong. Since 1996, when I worked with Congress to raise the minimum wage by 90 cents over 2 years, the unemployment rate has fallen from 5.2 percent to 4.1 percent -- near the lowest level in 30 years, more than 10 million new jobs have been created, and economic growth has averaged 4.3 percent.

Despite this overwhelming evidence, some in Congress are insisting on a lengthier 3-year increase in the minimum wage -- a delay that would cost a full-time, year-round worker more than \$900 over 2 years. Others have chosen to use the minimum wage increase as a vehicle to repeal important overtime protections for American workers. And

finally, some are using this minimum wage increase to pass irresponsible tax cuts that would threaten our fiscal discipline and jeopardize our ability to extend the life of Medicare and Social Security and pay down the debt by 2013.

Let me be clear -- this is the wrong approach. I will veto any legislation that holds this minimum wage increase hostage to provisions that delay this overdue pay raise or jeopardize our ability to strengthen Social Security and Medicare and pay down the debt by 2013 for future generations.

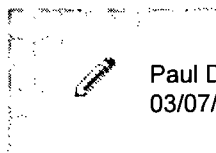
All Americans should be able to share in our current economic prosperity. For a full-time worker at the minimum wage, this increase would provide a \$2,000 annual raise -- enough for a family of four to buy groceries for 7 months or pay rent for 5 months. More than 10 million workers would benefit from this proposal, the majority of them women. Congress should do the right thing and give these workers a raise.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

#

Message Sent To: _____



Paul D. Glastris
03/07/2000 10:57:29 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: final minimum wage

Final 3/7/2000 11:00 p.m.

Glastris

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS ON RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, DC
March 8, 2000**

Acknowledgments: Sen. Edward Kennedy; Rep. Richard Gephardt; Rep. David Bonior; Cheryl Costas; John Podesta; Sec. Larry Summers; Gene Sperling; Deputy Labor Sec. Ed Montgomery; Rev. Paul Sherry, former President of the United Church of Christ; Rev. David Beckmann, President of Bread for the World

We are here today, on this beautiful morning, in this glorious setting, on behalf of Americans like Cheryl Costas—people who don't often get a chance to see a place like this. They are people who work hard every day, stocking store shelves, washing dishes at restaurants, cleaning our offices at night, and caring for our children during the day. They are in every town and city in America, and of every racial and ethnic group. But they have one thing in common: they earn the minimum wage--and they need a raise. We're here today to call on Congress to give them one.

Ever since I ran for President back in 1992, I've had a vision of making our nation a place where everyone responsible enough to work for it could have a shot at the American Dream. And over the last seven years, with the help of a lot of people here today, we've made that vision a reality for millions of Americans. We turned the economy around with a new economic plan of fiscal discipline, expanded trade, and investment in our people. And I believe we should continue down that path, by paying off the debt for the first time since 1835, strengthening Social Security and Medicare, and investing in education, health care, and the environment. We helped millions of working Americans escape poverty by expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit, and I've asked Congress to expand it again. We helped millions of working parents take time off to care for a newborn child or a sick loved one by passing family and medical leave, and I think we ought to expand the law to cover regular visits to schools, too.

And in 1996, with bipartisan support, we raised the minimum wage in two steps over two years, to \$5.15 an hour. Now it's time to raise it again, over two years, to \$6.15 an hour. Again we have bipartisan support in Congress. And again, the Republican leadership is trying to stop us, only this time they know they can't win on the facts.

Back in 1996, Republican leaders said that a higher minimum wage was "a job killer cloaked in kindness." They warned that it would throw young minorities out of work and lead to a juvenile crime wave of "epic proportions."

Time has not been kind to their predictions, and today, I am releasing a report from my National Economic Council that puts to rest any lingering myths about the minimum wage. Since we raised the minimum wage in 1996, the economy has created over 10 million new jobs. The unemployment rate has fallen to nearly its lowest point in 30 years. The employment rate of minority youth has gone up. Juvenile crime has gone down. We now have the lowest poverty rates in 20 years and the lowest African American and Hispanic unemployment rates on record. We've cut the welfare rolls in half, and thanks in part to a higher minimum wage, millions have moved from welfare to work, and incomes are rising even for the poorest groups of Americans for the first time in decades. And last month, we achieved the longest period of economic growth in our entire history.

The new report I am releasing today also dispels another myth about the minimum wage: That those who benefit are mostly middle-class teenagers working for gas money. In fact, 70 percent are adults. Sixty percent are women. Almost half work full time. And many are sole breadwinners struggling to raise their children on \$10,700 a year.

In total, more than 10 million Americans are working for about \$5.15 an hour. And as Cheryl Costas will tell you, it is hard to live on \$5.15 an hour.

No American who works full-time should raise their family in poverty. This modest increase would simply restore the real value of the minimum wage to what it was in 1982. But for a full-time worker, it would mean an extra \$2,000 a year. That's real money--enough for a family of four to buy groceries for 7 months or pay rent for 5 months.

Raising the minimum wage is the right thing to do for working families. And it's the smart thing to do for our economy. At a time when businesses are suffering labor shortages, we must bring more workers into the job market. And studies from Princeton and my own Council of Economic Advisers show that that's precisely what happens when you raise the minimum wage. Increase the reward for work, and people who weren't looked for jobs decide to go to work.

There are a dozen good reasons to raise the minimum wage, and not a single one not to. Even the Republican leadership understands that. So instead of arguing the facts, they're playing legislative slight-of-hand. For instance, they're using the minimum wage bill as a vehicle to repeal worker protections and pass irresponsible tax cuts that would threaten our fiscal discipline and jeopardize our ability to extend the life of Medicare and Social Security

and pay down the debt by 2013. They're also pushing to delay the minimum wage increase over three years. That would mean at least \$900 less in wages for a full-time worker making the minimum wage.

If Republican leaders make workers wait another year for their full pay raise, or hold the minimum wage bill hostage for risky tax cuts that threaten our prosperity, I will veto it. It's time for the leadership to stop their shell games. Stop nickle and diming American workers out of the dollar-an-hour raise they deserve. Send me a clean, straightforward bill to raise the minimum wage by one dollar over two years—and I'll sign it.

Raising the minimum wage by a dollar over two years is right for America, and right for people like Cheryl Costas—hard-working Americans trying to keep body and soul together. They deserve our admiration, and our support. And never have we been in a better position to provide that support.

I am deeply grateful for the historic prosperity we enjoy. But our nation cannot live up to its full potential until every American willing to work for it has a chance to share in that prosperity. Raising the minimum wage is an important step to making that happen. Now, I want to introduce someone who has been fighting for working Americans for almost 25 years in Congress, Rep. David Bonior.

[following remarks by Rep. Gephardt you will step back up to podium and close the program]

Message Sent To: _____

.....
Marty J. Hoffmann
.....

03/07/2000 08:17:51 PM
.....

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: MoCs attending Min. Wage Event, 3/8/00

EVENT: MINIMUM WAGE RALLY
DATE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2000
TIME: 10:15 AM-11:15 AM
LOCATION: South Lawn of the White House
PARTICIPANTS: John Podesta
 Cheryl Costas, Employee, Colton Alba Grocery and Gas.
 The President
 Rep. Bonior
 Sen. Kennedy
 Rep. Gephardt

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ATTENDING (24):

Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-ND)
Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA)
Rep. Joe Baca (D-CA)
Rep David Bonior (D-MI)
Rep. Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD)
Rep. Donna M. Christian-Christensen (D-VI)
Rep. Elijah E Cummings (D-MD)
Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)
Rep. Peter Deutsch (D-FL)
Rep. Chaka Fattah (D-PA)
Rep. Harold Ford (D-TN)
Rep. Martin Frost (D-TX)
Rep. Shelia Jackson-Lee (D-TX)
Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)
Rep. Paul E. Kanjorski, (D-PA)
Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-OH)
Rep. Dale Kildee (D-MI)
Rep. Nick Lampson (D-TX)
Rep. Zoe Lofgren, (D-CA)
Rep. Carrie P. Meek (D-FL)
Rep. Ciro D Rodriguez. (D-TX)
Rep. Ted Strickland (D-OH)
Rep. Karen Thurman (D-FL)
Rep. Robert A. Underwood (D-GU)

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS PENDING (57):

Senator Tom Daschle (D-SD)
Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD)
Sen. Paul Wellstone (D-MN)
Rep. Robert Andrews (D-NJ)
Rep. William Clay (D-MO)
Rep Richard Gephardt (D-MO)
Rep. George Miller (D-CA)
Rep. Matthew Martinez (D-CA)
Rep. Donald Payne (D-NJ)
Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA)
Rep John Lewis (D-GA)
Rep Patrick Kennedy (D-RI)
Rep Bob Menendez (D-NJ)
Rep Ed Pastor (D-AZ)
Rep Maxine Waters (D-CA)
Berry, Marion (D-AR)
Blumenauer, Earl (D-OR)
Bonior, David E. (D-MI)
Borski, Robert A. (D-PA)
Boswell, Leonard L. (D-IA)
Boyd, Jr., F. Allen (D-FL)
Brady, Robert A. (D-PA)
Brown, Corrine (D-FL)
Capps, Lois (D-CA)
Capuano, Michael E. (D-MA)
Carson, Julia M. (D-IN)
Clayton, Eva M. (D-NC)
Clement, Bob (D-TN)
Clyburn, James E. (D-SC)
Condit, Gary A. (D-CA)
Conyers, Jr., John (D-MI)
Coyne, William J. (D-PA)
Crowley, Joseph (D-NY)
Davis, Jim (D-FL)
DeGette, Diana (D-CO)
Dixon, Julian C. (D-CA)
Forbes, Michael P. (D-NY)
Hooley, Darlene (D-OR)
Kleczka, Gerald D. (D-WI)
Kucinich, Dennis J. (D-OH)
Levin, Sander M. (D-MI)
Maloney, Carolyn B. (D-NY)
Markey, Edward J. (D-MA)
Matsui, Robert T. (D-CA)
McCarthy, Karen (D-MO)
McIntyre, Mike (D-NC)
Mollohan, Alan B. (D-WV)
Olver, John W. (D-MA)
Peterson, Collin C. (D-MN)
Rahall, II, Nick J. (D-WV)
Rangel, Charles B. (D-NY)
Roybal-Allard, Lucille (D-CA)
Sandlin, Max (D-TX)
Sawyer, Thomas C. (D-OH)

Schakowsky, Janice D. (D-IL)
Serrano, Jose E. (D-NY)
Wynn, Albert Russell (D-MD)

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Board for the World

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General Minister and President
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Bishop Nathaniel Linsay
Ecumenical Officer
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

The Rev. Kathleen S. Hurty
Executive Director
Church Women United

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Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church

The Rev. H. George Anderson
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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March 8, 2000

Dear President Clinton and Members of Congress,

We religious leaders urge you, during this session of Congress, to pass legislation that will increase the minimum wage by \$1.00 over the next two years. So many of the working poor are in deep pain because of lack of sufficient income to provide for themselves and their families. We believe, as does a high percentage of the American public, that increasing the minimum wage by \$1.00 over two years would be one of the most compassionate and effective ways of responding to that pain. We believe that justice and compassion for "the least of these" demands that we act now.

This \$1.00 increase would mean an additional \$2000 per year for those working people and their families who are most in need of additional income, full-time workers who are paid the minimum wage. This \$1.00 increase would lift a family of two out of poverty. The extra \$2000 per year would buy approximately six months of groceries, or four months of rent; or seventeen months of tuition and fees at a two-year college. Surely in a time of enormous prosperity for so many, in a time when some among us have so much and some so little, we can do no less.

As estimated 18 million, five hundred thousand workers would benefit from a \$1.00 increase in the minimum wage. Ten million, one hundred thousand workers, about 7½ % of the workforce, would benefit directly from a \$1.00 increase. Of this group 69 % are adults (age twenty and older) and 60 % are women. Spillover effects of the increase would likely raise the wages of an additional eight million, four hundred thousand workers who currently earn up to \$7.15 an hour.

We are aware that there are some who believe that increasing the minimum wage will increase unemployment. However, a number of recent studies, including one by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, do not support this belief. Bureau of Labor Statistics data show that employment increased and unemployment decreased, since the last increases in the minimum wage took effect in 1996 and 1997. Further, economists at the Economic Policy Institute studied the 1996-1997 minimum wage increases and found overall there was no statistically significant effect on job opportunities. Other studies could be cited.

Please support an increase in the minimum wage by \$1.00 over the next two years so that justice may be done and compassion received.

Supastan D
Sherry

Rabbi Hersh
Bishop
Quinblston