

RAISE *the* WAGE

FACT SHEET

The Raise the Wage Act of 2019

Increasing the minimum wage to \$15 by 2025 will give more than 33 million Americans a raise

For millions of people across the country, working 40 hours or more a week is not enough to support themselves and their families. In fact, [one in nine](#) U.S. workers are paid wages that leave them in poverty, even when working full-time and year-round.

After more than a decade with no increase in the federal minimum wage – the longest period in U.S. history – there is now no place in America where a full-time worker making the federal minimum wage can afford the basic essentials. The *Raise the Wage Act* will restore the value of work in our economy and lift struggling workers and their families out of poverty.

The *Raise the Wage Act of 2019* would:

- Gradually raise the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$15 by 2025;
- Index future increases in the federal minimum wage to median wage growth to ensure the value of minimum wage does not once again erode over time;
- Guarantee tipped workers are paid at least the full federal minimum wage by phasing out the subminimum wage for tipped workers, which will ensure consistent, livable pay without eliminating tips;
- Guarantee teen workers are paid at least the full federal minimum wage by phasing out the rarely used subminimum wage for youth workers; and
- End subminimum wage certificates for workers with disabilities to provide opportunities for workers with disabilities to be competitively employed and participate more fully in their communities.

The *Raise the Wage Act* would give more than 33 million Americans a raise. According to independent analysis, gradually raising the minimum wage to \$15 would increase wages for 33.5 million people. Once fully phased in, this translates into an annual pay increase of about \$2,760 for the average affected year-round worker.

Boosts the economy. When we put money in the pockets of workers and their families, they will spend that money in local businesses. Even after a modest minimum wage increase of just \$1, spending in households with minimum wage workers increased, on average, [at least \\$700 per quarter](#), according to economic research. The *Raise the Wage Act* helps create an economy that works for everyone, not just the wealthy few.

Lifts workers out of poverty. Even the [Congressional Budget Office's](#) cautious estimates of a similar proposal predict gradually raising the minimum wage will lift 1.3 Americans out of poverty, including 600,000 children.

Scheduled Minimum Wages Increases

Year	Minimum Wage	Tipped Wage	Youth Wage	14(c)
Current	\$7.25	\$2.13	\$4.25	Subminimum Wage
2019	\$8.40	\$3.60	\$5.50	Subminimum Wage
2020	\$9.50	\$5.10	\$6.75	\$4.25
2021	\$10.60	\$6.60	\$8.00	\$6.40
2022	\$11.70	\$8.10	\$9.25	\$8.55
2023	\$12.80	\$9.60	\$10.50	\$10.70
2024	\$13.90	\$11.10	\$11.75	\$12.85
2025	\$15.00	\$12.60	\$13.00	Index to Median Wages
2026		\$14.10	\$14.25	
2027		Index to Median Wages	Index to Median Wages	