

**37 MILLION AMERICANS
ARE LIVING IN
POVERTY,
INCLUDING 13 MILLION
CHILDREN.**

**5.4 MILLION MORE HAVE
FALLEN INTO
POVERTY
SINCE GEORGE BUSH
BECAME PRESIDENT.**

**Right now a working parent
faces an impossible choice:**

- Daycare or heat
- Job-training or safe housing
- A doctor's visit or dinner



**Watch a special
video from
Senator Edward
M. Kennedy and
join his demand
a Senate Vote on
the Fair Minimum
Wage Act.**

AMERICA DESERVES A RAISE

Minimum Wage – By the Numbers

A minimum wage employee working full time (40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year) will earn \$10,700 per year – almost \$6,000 below the federal poverty guidelines of \$16,600 for a family of three.

Since the last minimum wage increase in 1997, the real value of \$5.15 has actually eroded by 19.2 percent. Meanwhile, members of Congress have increased their own pay by \$31,600.

Support the Fair Minimum Wage Act

Fifteen and a half million Americans will benefit from a minimum wage increase to \$7.25 an hour – 7.3 million directly, and 8.2 million indirectly.

Raising the minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour will mean an additional \$4,400 a year to help minimum wage earners support their families. It would be enough money for a low-income family of three to buy:

- 15 months of groceries
- 19 months of utilities
- 8.5 months of rent
- Over two years of health care
- 20 months of child care
- 30 months of college tuition at a public, 2 year college

History clearly shows that raising the minimum wage has not had any negative impact on jobs, employment, or inflation. In the four years after the last minimum wage increase passed, the economy experienced its strongest growth in over three decades. Nearly 11 million new jobs were added, at a pace of 232,000 per month. In contrast, in the last four years the minimum wage has held steady, but only 4.3 million jobs have been created.

**The Fair Minimum Wage Act would
raise the minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour
in three steps:**

\$5.85 60 days after enactment;

\$6.55 one year later;

\$7.25 one year after that.

A fair increase is long overdue.

Congress should act as quickly as possible to pass a minimum wage increase that reflects the losses suffered as the result of our shameful inaction in the past. No one who works for a living should have to live in poverty.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

TedKennedy.com/MinimumWage