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April 29, 2014

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the country's largest and oldest Hispanic organization, I urge you to support S. 2223, the Minimum Wage Fairness Act. This crucial legislation seeks to advance the civil rights of all working Americans by increasing the federal minimum wage for millions of low-wage workers and their families

As a civil rights organization, LULAC has championed policies that have helped improve the quality of life for Latino workers. The Minimum Wage Fairness Act would increase the federal minimum wage from the current \$7.25 to \$10.10/hour by 2016. This bill would adjust the minimum wage rate accordingly to the increasing cost of living. Most importantly, with this bill, the wages for tipped workers will finally increase after being stagnant at \$2.13/hour for over 20 years. The lives of 30 million working Americans will benefit from the proposed minimum wage increase.

Communities of color and women stand to benefit the most from the passage of the Minimum Wage Fairness Act. Latinos represent only 15% of the workforce, yet comprise 25% of those that would benefit from a higher minimum wage. Servers are the largest occupation of tipped workers with 61% and Latinos make up 20% of the server workforce. In 2012, women made up two-thirds of minimum wage workers and nearly two-thirds of all tipped occupations. An increase in the minimum wage to \$10.10 would directly or indirectly raise the wages of 3.3 million Latina workers and 1.4 million women of color who are single parents. A \$10.10 minimum wage would mean higher earnings for 17 million workers with minimal effect on employment, and could lift nearly five million Americans out of poverty.

The Minimum Wage Fairness Act is a key step to increasing economic security and ensuring opportunity for all Americans. Increasing the federal minimum wage will provide millions of low wage working Americans with a respectable wage and an improved quality of life. As an act to ensure American civil rights, we call on you to support S. 2223, the Minimum Wage Fairness Act.

Please feel free to reach out to our Director of Policy and Legislation, Luis Torres at latorres@lulac.org or 202-833-6130 should you wish to further discuss this issue.

Sincerely,

Margaret Moran
LULAC National President