

Fair Wages: A Community Concern



In the spirit of shalom and the spirit of advocacy, Communities of Shalom are called to participate in the Let Justice Roll Living Wage Campaign

<http://www.letjusticeroll.org>.

“Many of the neighbors in Communities of Shalom across the country work for wages that are unable to sustain their well being or their family’s well being,” says Barbara Wheeler, Communities of Shalom Staffperson. “Our faith declares that we be committed to the well being of EVERYONE in our communities. As we live out the Principles of Shalom we must be advocates with workers seeking a just minimum wage and essentially seeking Shalom. As the prophet Jeremiah says: In our neighbors’ shalom we will find our shalom.”

“Through prayer, education and action Communities of Shalom will continue to make a difference in the lives of neighbors, congregations and communities,” Ms. Wheeler said.

The Let Justice Roll Living Wage Campaign is a nonpartisan group of more than 65 faith-based and community-based organizations focused on achieving a living wage for workers. They support federal legislation to raise the federal minimum wage and legislation and ballot initiatives to increase state and local minimum wages. The website has resources to encourage discussion on the issue and current news stories about the campaign for living wages throughout the United States.

In Congress there has been no action on proposals to raise the minimum wage. Specifically, there is a bill in the House of Representatives that would increase the current minimum wage from \$5.15/hour to \$7.25/hour. In order for the House to act on the bill it must be moved out of committee with a discharge petition. Visit <http://clerk.house.gov> to see if your representative has signed the discharge petition for the Fair Minimum Wage Act. To find the contact information for your representative go to <http://www.house.gov/writerep>. Below is the body of a letter that can be sent to Representatives asking them to act now.



Many livable wage campaigns spring from faith communities.

Image by:North Carolina Council of Churches

Source: Community and Institutional Ministries

Dear _____,

Greetings from your District! I first wish to thank you for your hard work and service to make our community and our nation a healthier home. I am writing to encourage your support for a just minimum wage. My neighbors and I are concerned that with the increasing costs of housing and healthcare we are working harder and struggling more. As a community we have been utilizing resources by Let Justice Roll and would encourage you to review these materials as well (www.letjusticeroll.org).

My neighbors and I believe increasing the minimum wage to a just living wage will foster healthy families and in turn a healthy nation. My neighbors and I believe that fairer wages are better for the economy. When the workforce has a stable, healthy and safe home they are more efficient, and more productive. A more efficient and productive workforce can only be healthy for our economy and our nation.

I urge you to support House Resolution 614 (discharge petition) and encourage your colleagues in Congress to do the same in order for action to be taken on the Fair Minimum Wage Act. The House of Representative's version of the Fair Minimum Wage Act (H.R. 2429), like the companion bill in the Senate, will increase the federal minimum wage from \$5.15/hour to \$7.25/hour.

Once again I urge you to consider supporting H.R. 614 and H.R. 2429 and all just minimum wage bills.

Sincerely,
