The undersigned organizations enthusiastically support the Raise the Wage Act of 2017, as introduced by Senators Bernie Sanders (VT) and Patty Murray (WA), Representatives Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (VA) and Keith Ellison (MN).

If enacted, this legislation would:

- Raise the federal minimum wage to \$9.25 this year and increase it over the next seven years until it reaches \$15 an hour in 2024;
- After 2024, adjust the minimum wage each year to keep pace with growth in the typical worker's wages;
- Phase out the outdated subminimum wage for tipped workers, which has been frozen at a meager \$2.13 since 1991; and,
- Sunset the much criticized ability of employers to pay workers with disabilities a subminimum wage through certificates issued by DOL.
- Phase out the subminimum wage for workers under the age of 20.

At a time when wage stagnation and income inequality pose serious threats to our families and our economy, the Raise the Wage Act of 2017 would begin to reverse that cycle and raise pay broadly across the bottom of the workforce. According to data from the Economic Policy Institute, this Act will deliver long-overdue raises to a large segment of the workforce: more than 1 in 4 workers, 90% of whom are over the age of 20. The average age of workers who would get a raise is 36, nearly half have some years of college education, and 20 percent hold associate's degrees or higher. In fact, those who work year-round would see a raise in the order of \$3,500 a year, which is enough to make a tremendous difference in the life of a preschool teacher, bank teller, or fast-food worker who today struggles to get by on around \$20,000 per year.

More than 27 percent are working parents with children, and half have family incomes of less than \$40,000 per year. Women make up nearly 56 percent of the workers who would benefit from a \$15 minimum wage, which would be instrumental in helping to close the gender-wage-gap. Raising the minimum wage to \$15 would also significantly benefit workers of color, with 40 percent of African Americans workers and 34 percent of Latinos seeing a pay increase once this law goes into effect.

These are the frontline workers who make America run -- yet due to the erosion of the real value of the minimum wage over the last half century, they are struggling even as our economy enjoys a solid recovery.

The time for the Raise the Wage Act is long overdue, and we cannot delay in working toward its passage. We call on Congress to enact this important piece of legislation as quickly as possible, and for President Trump to sign it when it comes to his desk.

Economic Policy Institute
National Employment Law Project

9to5 California

9to5 Colorado

9to5 Georgia

9to5 Wisconsin

9to5, National Association of Working Women

A Better Balance

AFL-CIO

Alliance for a Better Utah

Amalgamated Transit Union NJ State Joint Council

Amara Legal Center

American Association of People with Disabilities

American Association of University Women (AAUW)

American Federation of Government Employees

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

American Federation of Teachers

American Postal Workers Union

Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)

Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO (APALA)

Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law

**BCTGM International Union** 

Bend the Arc Jewish Action

CATA - The Farmworker Support Committee

**Center for American Progress** 

Center for Community Change Action

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Center on Policy Initiatives

Chicago Jobs Council

Citizen Action of New York

Coalition of Labor Union Women

**Coalition of Religious Communities** 

Coalition on Human Needs

Colorado Center on Law and Policy

Communications Workers of America (CWA)

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces

Connecticut Legal Services, Inc.

Connecticut Voices for Children

**CREDO** 

Crossroads Urban Center

**Daily Kos** 

DC Abortion Fund

DC Fiscal Policy Institute

**Demos** 

**DISABILITY LAW CENTER** 

Disability Law Center of Alaska

Disability Rights Arkansas, Inc.

Disability Rights California

Disability Rights Center - New Hampshire

Disability Rights Center of the Virgin Islands

Disability Rights Maryland

Disability Rights Mississippi

Disability Rights NC

Disability Rights New Jersey

Disability Rights New Mexico

Disability Rights of West Virginia

**Disability Rights Vermont** 

**Disability Rights Washington** 

Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project

**Economic Opportunity Institute** 

Economic Progress Institute (RI)

**Equal Rights Advocates** 

Fair World Project

Family Values @ Work

**Feminist Majority** 

Fight for \$15 Cleveland

First Focus Campaign for Children

Food & Water Watch

Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)

FORGE, Inc.

**Forward Together** 

**Futures Without Violence** 

Greater New Jersey Pride at Work

Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice

Homeless Persons Representation Project of Maryland

Indiana Institute for Working Families

**Innovation Ohio** 

Institute for Science and Human Values

Interfaith Worker Justice

International Brotherhood of Teamsters

International Union UAW

Jesuit. Provincials of the United States

Jewish Women International (JWI)

Jobs With Justice

Justice in Motion

Kentucky Equal Justice Center

**Keystone Progress** 

**Keystone Research Center** 

La Plata County Thrive! Living Wage Coalition

Labor Council for Latin American Advancement

**Labor Project for Working Families** 

Lambda Legal

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

Legal Aid at Work

Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia

Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy

Los Angeles LGBT Center

Maryland Center on Economic Policy

Michigan League for Public Policy

MomsRising

MoveOn.org

**NAACP** 

NAACP Newark, NJ Branch

**National Action Network** 

National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum

**National Association of Letter Carriers** 

**National Black Justice Coalition** 

National Center for Lesbian Rights

National Center for Transgender Equality

National Council of Jewish Women

National Council of La Raza

National Disability Rights Network

National Domestic Workers Alliance

**National Education Association** 

National Employment Law Project

National Employment Lawyers Association

National Immigration Law Center

National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund

National Partnership for Women & Families

National Urban League

National Women's Law Center

Native American Disability Law Center

Natural Resources Defense Council

**NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice** 

New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice

**New Jersey Policy Perspective** 

New Jersey Working Families Alliance

**New Labor** 

NJ State Industrial Union Council

North Carolina Justice Center

Ohio Women's Public Policy Network

Our Revolution

Oxfam America

PathWays PA

**People Demanding Action** 

**Policy Matters Ohio** 

PolicyLink

Pride at Work

**Professional Aviation Safety Specialists** 

Progress For All

**ProgressNow** 

Project IRENE

Raise Up Cleveland

Raise Up Ohio

**Restaurant Opportunities Centers United** 

Restaurant Opportunity Center of Boston

Restaurant Opportunity Center of Chicago

**Restaurant Opportunity Center of Los Angeles** 

Restaurant Opportunity Center of Michigan

Restaurant Opportunity Center of New York

Restaurant Opportunity Center of Pennsylvania

**Restaurant Opportunity Center of Seattle** 

Restaurant Opportunity Center of The Bay Area

Restaurant Opportunity Center of The Gulf Coast

Restaurant Opportunity Center of Washington, D.C.

**RESULTS** 

**Rooted in Rights** 

Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

SEIU District 1199 WV/KY/OH

SEIU Florida Public Services Union

SEIU Ohio Joint State Council No. 25

Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

SiX Action

South Florida Interfaith Worker Justice

Southern Poverty Law Center

Teamsters Local 469

**Texas Organizing Project** 

The Agenda Project

The Center for Popular Democracy

The Fairness Project

The Patriotic Millionaires

The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society

The Voter Participation Center

The Washington Lawyers' Committee

Time for a Raise

TimeBanks USA

**UC Berkeley Labor Center** 

UDC David A. Clarke School of Law

UltraViolet

Union for Reform Judaism

Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation

United Food and Commercial Workers International Union

United Mine Workers of America

United Steelworkers (USW)

**URGE:** Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity

**Utah Indivisible** 

Utility Workers Union of America

Voces

**Voices for Progress** 

Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs

Washington Metro Disabled Students Collective

Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO

Wind of the Spirit, Immigrant Resource Center

Women Employed

Women's Law Project

Women's Voices, Women Vote Action Fund

Worker Justice Committee

**Working America** 

**Working Families Party** 

Workplace Fairness