

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Yarmuth, Van Hollen, McDermott, Lee, and Moulton

Importance of Raising the Minimum Wage

1. At the end of Title VIII, add the following:

“Sense of the House on the Importance of Raising the Minimum Wage

(a) The House finds that---

- (1) The federal minimum wage has not been increased since 2009.
- (2) The real value of the minimum wage today is at historically low levels.
- (3) Increasing the minimum wage would give a raise to millions of workers, and lift many Americans out of poverty.
- (4) Minimum wage workers bring home a large portion of their family's total income.
- (5) A higher minimum wage would put more money in the pockets of individuals who are likely to spend additional income. This would help expand the economy and create jobs.
- (6) In part because of this effect, recent studies have indicated that increases in the minimum wage do not adversely impact job creation as much as had been previously thought, and that modest increases in the minimum wage may actually create jobs.
- (7) A higher minimum wage will reduce government spending on Medicaid, public housing, nutrition assistance and other income-support programs that provide assistance to minimum wage workers.
- (8) A higher minimum wage will benefit businesses by increasing productivity, reducing absenteeism, and reducing turnover.
- (9) States are moving ahead absent congressional action. In 2010, after the federal wage last increased, 15 states – with 33 percent of the civilian labor force – had a higher state minimum wage than the federal rate. This year, 29 states and DC have a higher minimum wage – covering 61 percent of the labor force.

(b) It is the sense of the House that Congress should act to raise the minimum wage.”

2. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

The resolution expresses the sense of House in support of increasing the minimum wage.
A higher minimum wage will benefit both workers and the economy as a whole.