



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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66TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
REPRESENTING THE RACINE COMMUNITY

For Immediate Release

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Rep. Mason: GOP Votes Against Raise For Nearly 600,000 WI Workers

'GOP denies hundreds of thousands an honest day's pay for an honest day's work'

MADISON – Today, Representative Cory Mason (D-Racine) criticized his Republican colleagues for voting against Wisconsin's Fair Minimum Wage Act, Assembly Bill 686, which would gradually raise Wisconsin's minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour.

"Today in the State Assembly, Legislators had an opportunity to choose sides: are they on the side of Wisconsin workers who are struggling to make ends meet or are they on the side of big business and corporate greed?" said Rep. Mason. "With their vote today against raising the minimum wage, Assembly Republicans made it abundantly clear that they do not stand on the side of Wisconsin's workers and their families."

Assembly Democrats attempted to pull legislation raising Wisconsin's minimum wage to the Assembly floor for a vote today. All Assembly Republicans voted no.

Wisconsin's minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour and has not increased since 2009. Wisconsin's Fair Minimum Wage Act would raise Wisconsin's minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour in three increments and then index the minimum wage to inflation.

"Assembly Republicans' lockstep opposition to giving workers a much-needed raise is out of touch with Wisconsin's values and with Wisconsin residents' views," Rep. Mason. "There is broad support for raising the minimum wage across the political spectrum. According to UW-Milwaukee's latest 'Wisconsin Economic Scorecard,' 57 percent of Wisconsinites support increasing the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour."

A recent report from the Center on Wisconsin Strategy finds that raising Wisconsin's minimum wage to \$10.10/hour would benefit 587,000 workers who would see their wages increase by \$816 million over the phase-in period. These wage increases would also increase economic activity by \$517 million and generate 3,800 new jobs in Wisconsin.

"I am disappointed that Wisconsin's Republican Legislators have turned their backs on nearly 600,000 Wisconsin workers and their families," said Rep. Mason. "No one can make it on \$7.25 per hour. Raising the minimum wage would have lifted workers out of poverty, benefitted our state's economy, and affirmed the dignity of work. Assembly Republicans' vote today denies hundreds of thousands of Wisconsin workers an honest day's wage for an honest day's work."

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