



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
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*REPRESENTING THE RACINE COMMUNITY*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 24, 2014

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**New Report Finds \$10.10 Wisconsin Minimum Wage Would Benefit 587,000 Wisconsin Workers, Increase Economic Activity by \$816 Million**

MADISON – Today, Rep. Cory Mason (D-Racine) commented on a report just released by the Center on Wisconsin Strategy (COWS) that finds that increasing Wisconsin’s minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour by 2016 would increase wages for more than half a million Wisconsin workers. Rep. Mason is the author of Wisconsin’s Fair Minimum Wage Act, Assembly Bill 686, which would raise Wisconsin’s minimum wage to \$10.10/hour by 2016.

“This report makes clear that raising Wisconsin’s minimum wage is not only good for hundreds of thousands of Wisconsin workers, but for our entire state’s economy,” said Rep. Mason. “These wage increases would increase economic activity by \$517 million and generate 3,800 new jobs in our state.”

Wisconsin’s minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour and has not increased since 2009. Wisconsin’s Fair Minimum Wage Act would immediately raise the minimum wage to \$8.20 per hour, increase it to \$9.15 per hour one year later, and increase it to \$10.10 per hour two years after the bill’s effective date.

The report 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. The report additionally finds that 57% of those workers who would benefit are women, and 87% of those workers are 20 years or older.

“There is a broad support for raising the minimum wage across the political spectrum. Americans of all political affiliations value the dignity of work and jobs that lift families out of poverty,” said Rep. Mason. “The only question now is whether Wisconsin’s legislators will embrace this opportunity to raise our state’s wages and help nearly half a million of our citizens.”

Rep. Mason and Sen. Bob Wirth (D-Somers) introduced Wisconsin’s Fair Minimum Wage Act in January. Wisconsin’s Republican legislative majority has so far refused to even hold public hearings on this bill.

Rep. Mason concluded, “I hope that, before the legislative session ends, legislators will be persuaded by the broad benefits to workers and our state’s economy and take action to reaffirm the dignity of work and increase Wisconsin’s minimum wage.”

The report is available [here on COWS website](#).

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