



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
GARY HEBL
46TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PRESS RELEASE

REP. GARY HEBL CONTINUES FIGHT FOR MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE
Supports New Bill That Would Give Wisconsin Workers a Raise

SUN PRAIRIE - Assembly and Senate Democrats continued their fight to give Wisconsin workers a raise Wednesday, unveiling a new bill that would take the recommendations of the Governor's Minimum Wage Advisory Council and make them law, as well as a petition drive led by local citizens to collect the signatures of those who support an immediate increase in the minimum wage. Rep. Gary Hebl (D-Sun Prairie) pledged his strong support for the measure, and encouraged local citizens to get involved.

"I strongly support the bill that Rep. Sheridan and Sen. Hansen are proposing, and will fight to make sure it becomes law," Hebl said. "Right now citizens all over the state are mobilizing in their communities, collecting the signatures of friends and neighbors who want to see relief for our working families. I encourage my constituents to join the effort with me."

Combined with a grassroots petition drive, the new proposal is the latest Democratic effort to break the four-month delay Republican leadership has placed on an increase in the minimum wage. If the bill was approved by both houses and signed into law the minimum wage would immediately increase to \$5.70 an hour. The minimum wage would then be raised to \$6.50 an hour on October 1st of this year. The bill is based on recommendations by the Governor's Minimum Wage Advisory Council, a diverse group of business, labor, university, and government leaders.

Republican legislators remain steadfast in their opposition to raising pay for low-wage workers despite public support voiced at public hearings and endorsements for the increase from the Wisconsin Restaurant Association, the Wisconsin Merchants Federation, the Wisconsin Chapter of the National Federation of Independent Business, the Wisconsin Grocers Association and Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce.

“We need to increase the minimum wage now,” Hebl said. “Every time my fellow Democrats and I have acted to raise the minimum wage we’ve been blocked. It isn’t fair to continue to play partisan politics with people’s lives.”

The minimum wage hasn’t been increased since 1997, but during that time per capita income in Wisconsin grew 25.3 percent, a Legislator’s annual pay grew 16.2 percent, and the rate of inflation went up 12.7 percent.

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