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(ITEM ) A resolution by County Executive Chris Able in support of federal and state legislation to raise and index the minimum wage, by recommending adoption of the following:

**A RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the federal minimum wage is currently set at \$7.25 per hour, is not indexed for inflation, and was last increased by congressional action in 2009; and

WHEREAS, the state minimum wage matches the current federal level at \$7.25 per hour; and

WHEREAS, a broadly applied minimum wage benefits those at the bottom end of the wage scale without hindering localities' competitiveness relative to others; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies show that when attempting to address income inequality through raising the minimum wage, it is preferable to utilize as broad an action as possible rather than localized initiatives which can reduce economic competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, Senator Tom Harkin and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid have introduced S 1737, the "*Minimum Wage Fairness Act*," which will raise the minimum wage incrementally over three years to \$10.10 in 2016 and thereupon provide for annual indexing of the wage rate by the Labor Department based on increases in the Consumer Price Index; and

WHEREAS, Representative George Miller and 154 co-sponsors, including three Wisconsin Representatives, Gwen Moore, Mark Pocan, and Ron Kind, have introduced the companion bill, the "*Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2013*" (H.R. 1010) in the United States House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, in November of 2013, the President of the United States, Barack Obama, announced his support for the legislation and urged Congress to act on this legislation; and

WHEREAS, Representatives Cory Mason and Eric Genrich along with Senators Bob Wirth and Nikiya Harris have introduced draft legislation, LRB 3599, which will raise the

40 state minimum wage to correspond to the federal proposal of \$10.10 per hour and  
41 provide for future indexing of the wage; and

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43 WHEREAS, the County Executive and other elected officials have been supportive  
44 of past efforts to raise the minimum wage and support fully this federal and state  
45 legislation; and

46 WHEREAS, support for this legislation is consistent with the mission of Milwaukee  
47 County to "enhance self-sufficiency...and economic opportunity and quality of life for all  
48 its people;" now, therefore,

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50 BE IT RESOLVED, that Milwaukee County adopts a position in support of federal  
51 legislation, S 1737 and H.R. 1010, and state legislation such as LRB 3599 to raise the  
52 minimum wage to \$10.10 and encourage its swift passage; and

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54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon adoption, the Milwaukee County Clerk is  
55 authorized and directed to send copies of this resolution to members from Wisconsin of  
56 the United States Congress; and

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58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Department of Government Affairs is authorized  
59 to communicate this position to elected officials and advocate for this legislation's  
60 enactment into law; and

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62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, in addition to raising the minimum wage at the  
63 state and federal level, Milwaukee County supports Wis. Stats. Chapter 104 Minimum Wage  
64 Law which permits Milwaukee County and other local units of government to enact a living  
65 wage ordinance in the absence of action by the state and federal governments.

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