

1 By the County Executive, Chris Abele
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4 **A RESOLUTION**

5 In support of federal and state legislation to raise and index the minimum wage.
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7 WHEREAS, the federal minimum wage is currently set at \$7.25 per hour and is not
8 indexed for inflation and was last increased by congressional action in 2009 and the state
9 minimum wage matches the current federal level at \$7.25 per hour; and
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11 WHEREAS, a broadly applied minimum wage benefits those at the bottom end of
12 the wage scale without hindering localities' competitiveness relative to others; and
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14 WHEREAS, numerous studies show that when attempting to address income
15 inequality through raising the minimum wage it is preferable to utilize as broad an action
16 as possible rather than localized initiatives which can reduce economic competitiveness;
17 and
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19 WHEREAS, Senator Tom Harkin and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid have
20 introduced S 1737, the "*Minimum Wage Fairness Act*" which will raise the minimum wage
21 incrementally over three years to \$10.10 in 2016 and thereupon provide for annual
22 indexing of the wage rate by the Labor department based on increases in the Consumer
23 Price Index; and
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25 WHEREAS, Representative George Miller and 154 cosponsors, including three
26 Wisconsin Representatives, Gwen Moore, Mark Pocan, and Ron Kind, have introduced the
27 companion bill, the "*Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2013*" (H.R. 1010) in the United State
28 House of Representatives; and
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30 WHEREAS, in November of 2013, the President of the United States, Barack
31 Obama, announced his support for the legislation and urged Congress to act on this
32 legislation; and
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34 WHEREAS, Representatives Cory Mason and Eric Genrich along with Senators Bob
35 Wirch and Nikiya Harris have introduced draft legislation, LRB 3599, which will raise the
36 state minimum wage to correspond to the federal proposal of \$10.10 per hour and provide
37 for future indexing of the wage; and
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39 WHEREAS, the County Executive and other elected officials have been supportive of
40 past efforts to raise the minimum wage and support fully this federal and state legislation;
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43 WHEREAS, support for this legislation is consistent with the mission of Milwaukee
44 County to "enhance self-sufficiency...and economic opportunity and quality of life for all its
45 people"; now, therefore

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

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

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