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3 (ITEM) A resolution by County Executive Chris Able in support of federal and
4 state legislation to raise and index the minimum wage, by recommending adoption of
5 the following:
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7 **A RESOLUTION**
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9 WHEREAS, the federal minimum wage is currently set at \$7.25 per hour, is not
10 indexed for inflation, and was last increased by congressional action in 2009; and
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12 WHEREAS, the state minimum wage matches the current federal level at \$7.25
13 per hour; and
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15 WHEREAS, a broadly applied minimum wage benefits those at the bottom end of
16 the wage scale without hindering localities' competitiveness relative to others; and
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18 WHEREAS, numerous studies show that when attempting to address income
19 inequality through raising the minimum wage, it is preferable to utilize as broad an
20 action as possible rather than localized initiatives which can reduce economic
21 competitiveness; and
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23 WHEREAS, Senator Tom Harkin and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid have
24 introduced S 1737, the "*Minimum Wage Fairness Act*," which will raise the minimum
25 wage incrementally over three years to \$10.10 in 2016 and thereupon provide for annual
26 indexing of the wage rate by the Labor Department based on increases in the Consumer
27 Price Index; and
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29 WHEREAS, Representative George Miller and 154 co-sponsors, including three
30 Wisconsin Representatives, Gwen Moore, Mark Pocan, and Ron Kind, have introduced
31 the companion bill, the "*Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2013*" (H.R. 1010) in the United
32 States House of Representatives; and
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34 WHEREAS, in November of 2013, the President of the United States, Barack
35 Obama, announced his support for the legislation and urged Congress to act on this
36 legislation; and
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38 WHEREAS, Representatives Cory Mason and Eric Genrich along with Senators Bob
39 Wirch 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
64 Wage Law which permits Milwaukee County and other local units of government to
65 enact a living wage ordinance in the absence of action by the state and federal
66 governments.

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Engrossed by County Clerk 2/12/14

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