

# Resolution supporting a \$15 Dollar State and Federal Minimum Wage

## Background:

In the year 2015, no one who works 40 hours a week should be living in poverty and Virginia's current minimum wage of \$7.25 hasn't been raised since 2009. Scaling the minimum wage up to \$15 an hour is not just about helping workers—it also saves taxpayers money and drives local economic growth. With higher wages, fewer workers rely on the social safety net to make ends meet. Those tax savings could be used to reward companies already here in Virginia who increase wages or go to education and workforce development for Virginians of all ages.

California and New York State have already pledged to raise their minimum wage to \$15 by 2022 and 2021 respectively across each state. Neighboring jurisdictions like Washington DC, will also have a \$15 dollar minimum wage by 2020. Maryland only has a minimum wage currently of \$9.25 but its largest City, Baltimore has a \$15 dollar Minimum Wage, and the state recently considered a bill making \$15 the minimum wage across the state.

According to the Pew Research Center "Since it was last raised in 2009, to the current \$7.25 per hour, the federal minimum has lost about 9.6% of its purchasing power to inflation." The study goes on to show that it is not just youth but people of all ages: "Less than half (45%) of the 2.6 million hourly workers who were at or below the federal minimum in 2015 were ages 16 to 24." (<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/01/04/5-facts-about-the-minimum-wage/>)

29 states, plus the District of Columbia and nearly two dozen cities and counties, have set their own higher minimums, Virginia can and should set a higher minimum wage than the federal government. "And in 12 states, the minimum wage rises automatically each year based on a cost-of-living formula." (Pew Charitable Trust)

**Therefore, be it resolved,** the 2017 Eighth District Democratic Convention affirms that:

1. State and federal minimum wage should be increased from \$7.25 to \$15 an hour by 2020 for all workers.
2. Tipped workers in Virginia be paid a \$10 minimum wage instead of the \$2.13 per hour they are currently guaranteed.
3. Both the state and Federal Minimum wage should increase annually as the cost of living increases.