



An Amendment for a Living Wage



Section 1.

All employment within the United States shall pay no less than a living wage. Further, any good or service imported into the United States shall have been produced and provided at no less than a living wage in the country or area of origin.

Section 2.

A living wage is defined as an amount that, if working full-time, meets the basic needs of one adult and any additional persons whose inclusion is determined by Congress to bring economic and quality-of-life benefits to the people of America.

Section 3.

Basic needs include: housing, utilities, food, health care, education, transportation, communications, and any other expenses deemed by Congress to bring economic and quality-of-life benefits to the people of America. Any state may define additional expenses to be included in their state's living wage; inclusion of any additional expense shall be statewide.

Section 4.

In addition to gross wages, Congress shall define minimum legal holidays or commensurate floating holidays, sick leave, vacation leave, paternity leave, and any other wages or benefits deemed by Congress to bring economic and quality-of-life benefits to the people of America. Any state may define additional legal or commensurate floating holidays or any additional form or amount of leave, but not less. Any additional benefits defined by the state shall be granted equally statewide.

Section 5.

Congress shall define the number of hours or days per week or month that constitutes full-time work. Part-time work shall pay an equivalent wage and include proportional benefits.

Section 6.

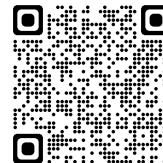
Each state shall define its wage area(s) and the wage amount for each area, which shall be submitted to the President for review and verification to ensure the living wage standard is met. Wage amounts shall be adjusted annually to maintain a living wage.

Section 7.

The President shall establish and maintain living wage amounts for each country or area from which imports are allowed. The entities delivering the imports and receiving the imports shall both be liable for compliance.

Section 8.

Within two years of ratification of this amendment, each state shall define and adopt wage areas, establish the living wage amount for each area, and develop a plan for transitioning to a living wage. The plan must achieve a living wage, including defined benefits, within six years of ratification of this amendment. Within two years of ratification of this amendment, the President shall define living wage amounts for each country or area. All imports shall be subject to the living wage six years after ratification of this amendment.





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Please support a permanent solution to a living wage: a Constitutional amendment establishing a living wage as a basic right.

It would be required to cover: housing, utilities, food, health care, education, transportation, and communications, because everyone needs all of those things in order to live and work in America. If any of those needs aren't met, it's difficult to find or keep a job, or to enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Plus, the government or non-profits already need to subsidize the difference anyway, because those needs have to be met.

My proposal addresses several problems at once, as well as respecting conservatives' concerns - because real solutions require compromise.

One of the most important other problems this amendment addresses is abusive foreign labor and slave labor. Abusive and slave labor is immoral and must be stopped. But conservatives are correct that it also undermines American workers. This amendment applies a living wage standard to anything imported, with the President determining wage amounts for each other country or area, so we can protect American workers and do the right thing for the world at the same time.

An amendment is also the only way to override all treaties, so it could be applied without necessarily renegotiating them.

Some might worry that this would create a lot of government regulation to manage; and while there would be some, the amendment states 'both the entities delivering and receiving the imports are liable for compliance'. 'Liable' is a very important distinction, because that's what insurance companies care about. And big companies are not afraid of any of us, but they are afraid of their insurance company.

This proposal lets states decide their wage amounts, including establishing wage areas like those already in place in Oregon. But instead of a flat number that doesn't keep up, it must guarantee a wage that it will pay for: housing, utilities, food, health care, education, transportation, and communications, in every area that they define. The states decide, but all of it is verified by the Executive department. As Ronald Reagan said, "Trust, but verify."

The living wage would be adjusted annually; no more waiting on Congress to agree so that Americans can pay their bills.

Achieving a living wage would also reduce welfare - because a lot more Americans could pay their bills without help. And there is transition time built in to manage inflation.

Americans need and deserve a legal right to a living wage. We cannot keep having this same fight forever while Americans always remain behind. Please support a Living Wage Amendment.

**Please contact your representatives to share your support, and share your support online.
Change takes us all.**

