



Allegheny County Council

County of Allegheny
436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone (412) 350-6490
Fax (412) 350-6499

Legislation Text

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Motion of the Council of Allegheny County expressing the sense of Council regarding potential legislation allowing for minimum wage standards to be set at the county level within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, low wages, and a high cost of living in the County of Allegheny relative to other parts of the state create serious economic and social problems for many constituents;

WHEREAS, Allegheny County is the home to over 1.2 million Pennsylvanians, and should have the right to set a living wage for them;

WHEREAS, when workers earn decent wages, such wages can also boost the growth of the local economy;

WHEREAS, many Allegheny County workers earning a poverty wage in full-time jobs cannot survive on those wages alone and are forced to have multiple low wage jobs;

WHEREAS, many low wage workers are people of color who have long been over-represented and trapped in poverty wage jobs;

WHEREAS, many Allegheny County work long hours yet still cannot afford housing, food, medical care, and other basic necessities;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed how essential workers necessary to keep services operating-such as grocery stores, health care facilities, and sanitation services-face increased exposure to COVID-19 while being overworked and underpaid with little to no job security;

WHEREAS, increasing the minimum wage at the local level would help establish a minimum wage that reflects the cost of living for residents of Allegheny County;

WHEREAS, increasing the minimum wage promotes the health, safety, and welfare of those who work in Allegheny County; and

WHEREAS, the PA General Assembly has repeatedly failed to pass living wage legislation in the Commonwealth forcing workers in Allegheny County to live in poverty despite, in some cases, working multiple low wage jobs; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania Representative Kevin Boyle has indicated that will introduce legislation that would allow Pennsylvania counties to raise the minimum wage as needed, since many have argued that the cost of living is lower in rural Pennsylvania than in the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh metropolitan regions, and that this disparity is best evaluated and addressed at the county level;

The Council of the County of Allegheny therefore hereby moves as follows:

Allegheny County Council hereby supports the introduction and passage of Rep. Kevin Boyle's legislation that would allow for municipalities throughout PA to enact their own minimum wage legislation.