



May 28, 2023,

Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Alex Padilla
United States Senate
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Poverty is a policy choice.

Cosponsor Sen. Sanders' bill to raise the federal minimum wage to \$17 an hour.

Dear Senators,

I urge you to support increasing the minimum wage to at least \$17 an hour for the good of the country and the economy. The last time Congress raised the minimum wage -- to \$7.25 an hour -- was in 2009. Since then, due to rising inflation, the value of that \$7.25 per hour has decreased by 27%. Fifty-two million workers currently make less than \$15 an hour in the U.S, including over 11 million single parents.

Poverty wages harm women and people of color the most. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, nearly two-thirds of workers earning at or near the federal minimum wage are women -- disproportionately Black and Latina women.

Poverty is a policy choice. You have the power to lift millions of America's workers out of poverty and reduce social inequities by signing on as a co-sponsor to Senator Sanders' legislation that would raise the federal minimum wage to \$17 an hour.

John Driscoll, former CEO of CareCentrix and a member of Patriotic Millionaires, explains: "A \$17 minimum wage will ensure that workers have enough not only to survive, but also to fully participate in growing small businesses and local economies. Take it from a businessman -- a higher minimum wage is not only good for workers, but also for businesses and the country as a whole."

Please do what's best for our country and sign on to co-sponsor legislation to raise the federal minimum wage to \$17 an hour.

Thank you,

(Print Name) _____

Address _____
