

Feb 25, 2025

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed increase in the minimum wage for teachers. I have worked in the school system for 18 years now and I believe it is critical to ensure that the dedicated professionals who shape our future generation are compensated fairly for their tireless work.

Teachers play an indispensable role in our society. They not only impart knowledge but also mentor, inspire, and provide a sense of security to countless students. However, despite their enormous impact on the growth and well-being of students, the wages of many teachers are still far below the level they deserve. In fact, across the country, teachers often struggle to make ends meet, with many working multiple jobs just to cover basic living expenses. The same can be said for educational technicians who are with our students day in and day out. An increase in the minimum wage for teachers would help to address several key issues:

1. Fair Compensation: Teachers are highly skilled professionals who dedicate years to earning degrees, certifications, and undergoing continuous professional development. Their wages should reflect the value they bring to society and the long hours they commit to educating our children.
 2. Addressing the Teacher Shortage: We are struggling to attract and keep qualified teachers everyday. I have seen many great educators leave to go to higher paying jobs at McDonalds, Starbucks and many other businesses. What does that say about our priorities when educators, who have attended school for many years, can't earn a decent salary in their field? By increasing teacher wages, we can attract and retain more educators in the classroom.
 3. Teacher job responsibilities: Our teachers and other professionals in the education field are asked to do more every year- with no end in sight. The behaviors of our students have changed dramatically, requiring more training, more resources and more creativity than ever before. Research has shown that teacher quality is the single most important factor in student achievement. By ensuring that teachers are compensated adequately, we send a clear message that education is a priority, ultimately benefiting our children and society as a whole.
- In conclusion, increasing the minimum wage for teachers is not only a matter of fairness but also a crucial step in ensuring the future of our education system. I urge you to take swift action to support teachers by passing legislation that ensures they are compensated appropriately for their vital work.

Sincerely,

Kristin Nason

RSU 57 Special education social worker

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Waterboro
LD 34

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