



## CO-SPONSORSHIP MEMORANDUM

**TO: All Legislators**

**FROM: Representative Lisa Subeck and Senator Diane Hesselbein**

**DATE: Thursday, September 7, 2023**

**RE: Co-Sponsorship of LRB-0734 relating to: allowing the enactment of local minimum wage ordinances**

**DEADLINE: Friday, September 22, 2023**

We are introducing the Workers First package to ensure every worker has access to fair wages, good benefits, workplace protections, and a high quality of life. For too long, the Legislature has ignored the needs of working people, from rolling back workers' rights to undermining local control and diminishing the economic well-being of the men and women who work hard for a living. As our state continues to experience a worker shortage, it is past time to put Wisconsin workers first.

Currently in Wisconsin, local units of government are preempted by state statute from establishing a local minimum wage. Wisconsin's minimum has stayed stagnant since 2009 at \$7.25 an hour.

To keep up with the cost of living, a family of four in Fond du Lac would need to bring in 4% more than one living in Marinette. A family living the Madison area would have to make an additional 14.5% versus one living in Fond du Lac.

Allowing local governments to establish wage floors for their residents will help to ensure that hardworking families in Wisconsin can afford the basics. According to cost of living data from the Economic Policy Institute, it costs more to live in Madison or Superior than in Sheboygan and Wausau. This is why it is necessary to allow local governments to set wage floors for their communities.

Twenty-two states allow local governments to establish local minimum wages. 48 local governments in states such as California, New Mexico, Arizona and Minnesota have passed local minimum wages. Minneapolis adopted its own local \$15 minimum wage in 2017, and Cook County, IL adopted theirs in 2019.

Please consider co-sponsoring LRB-0734, which would restore local control to cities, towns, villages and counties to establish a local minimum wage.

To co-sponsor, please reply to this email or call Rep. Subeck's Office at x9178 by **Friday, September 22, 2023**. All co-sponsors will be added to both the Assembly and Senate versions of the bill unless specified otherwise.

***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

*Current law prohibits a city, village, town, or county from enacting and administering an ordinance establishing a minimum wage. This bill eliminates that prohibition.*

*For further information see the local fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.*