

* CONFERENCE CALL TODAY AT NOON (EST)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 23, 2006

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**SENATORS KENNEDY AND EDWARDS JOIN STATE ORGANIZER TO DISCUSS
MINIMUM WAGE BALLOT INITIATIVES ON CONFERENCE CALL**

**ACROSS THE COUNTRY, STATES ARE TAKING THE LEAD TO GIVE MILLIONS THE
RAISE THEY DESERVE**

Washington, DC: Today at noon, Senator Edward Kennedy and former Senator John Edwards will host a press conference call with the organizers from the six states that have minimum wage initiatives on the ballot this year: Arizona, Colorado, Missouri, Nevada and Ohio. The minimum wage measures are expected to pass in all six states and extensive get-out-the-vote efforts are underway. Senators Kennedy and Edwards will discuss how the state efforts demonstrate the need for prompt federal action to raise the minimum wage and the organizers will give updates on the progress of their campaigns.

Senator Kennedy, a lifelong champion of raising the minimum wage, has been fighting to pass his bill that would raise the minimum wage from 5.15 to 7.25 over 2 years. While his plan has bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate, Republican leadership has repeatedly blocked the bill from passage. Senator Edwards has been traveling around the country to build grassroots support for state ballot initiatives to raise the minimum wage. He has been working closely with minimum wage coalitions in Arizona, Colorado, Montana, Missouri, Nevada and Ohio to support their efforts to raise the minimum wage.

WHO: Senator Edward Kennedy
Senator John Edwards
Steve Adams, President Colorado AFL-CIO Coalition Committee Chair, Coloradans
For A Fair Minimum Wage
Daniel Thompson, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Nevada AFL-CIO
Michael McGrath, Executive Director, Arizona AFL-CIO
Lenny Jones, Campaign Director, Give Missourians a Raise
Doug Mitchell, Campaign Manager, Raise Montana
Tim Burga, Political Director, Ohio AFL-CIO
Katie Gall, ACORN Ohio
C.J. Prentiss, Minority Leader, Ohio State Senate

WHAT: Conference Call with Reporters

WHEN: Monday, October 23 at 12:00pm EST

****** HOW:** Please call Senator Kennedy's press office at (202)224-2633 if you'd like to participate

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