



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 14, 2006

The Honorable David Dreier  
Chairman  
Committee on Rules  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H312 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Louise McIntosh Slaughter  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Rules  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H152 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dreier and Ranking Member Slaughter:

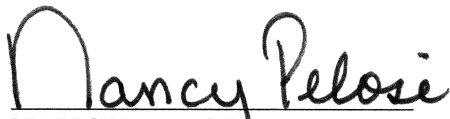
We are writing to request that the Rules Committee adopt a rule protecting from points of order the provisions of the FY 2007 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill raising the minimum wage. These provisions were added by Congressman Hoyer in an amendment in the Appropriations Committee markup of the bill on June 13, 2006. They were adopted by the Committee with bipartisan support.


These provisions, which follow H.R. 2429, the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2005, would raise the current minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour to \$7.25 per hour in three steps over the course of two years. The minimum wage has not been increased since 1997. Since that time, the real-dollar value of the minimum wage has dropped to its lowest level in fifty years. Americans are struggling with rising fuel prices, ballooning college tuition costs, and a lack of access to affordable housing. Last year, the Kaiser Family Foundation reported that annual premiums for family health care coverage had exceeded the annual income of a minimum wage worker. An increase in the minimum wage is long overdue.

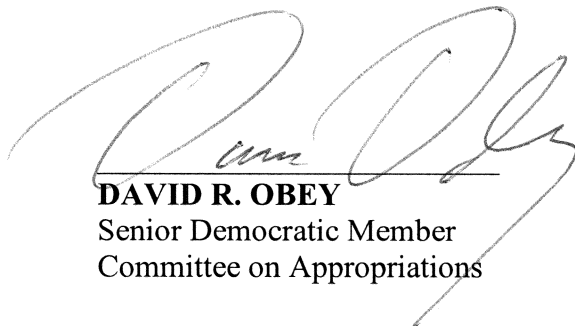
We respectfully request that the Rules Committee protect the minimum wage provisions in the FY 2007 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill from points of order. The Congress should pass a minimum wage increase as soon as possible. The Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill finally provides the Congress with a chance to vote on such an increase, and that opportunity should not be denied.

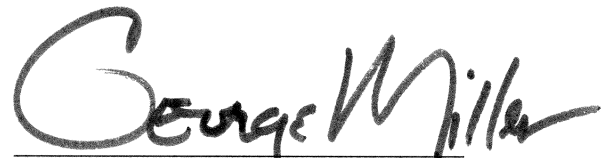
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Sincerely,

  
**NANCY PELOSI**  
Democratic Leader

  
**STENY H. HOYER**  
Democratic Whip

  
**DAVID R. OBEY**  
Senior Democratic Member  
Committee on Appropriations

  
**GEORGE MILLER**  
Senior Democratic Member  
Committee on Education and  
the Workforce