



Great Public Schools
for Every Student

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July 12, 2019

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our 3 million members and the 50 million students they serve, I urge you to VOTE YES on H.R. 582, the Raise the Wage Act. Votes on this issue may be included in NEA's Report Card for the 116th Congress.

This legislation will benefit working people across our nation, including NEA's education support professionals—the school bus drivers, cafeteria workers, custodians, and other members of school communities who are the first ones to arrive in the morning, and the last to go home at night. Their work is tremendously valuable, and the support they provide students often goes well beyond their job titles. Yet, they struggle to make ends meet.

The Raise the Wage Act would:

- benefit all low-wage earners, not just teenagers or restaurant workers;
- benefit nearly one-third of manufacturing workers, one-fourth of health care workers, one-fifth of construction workers, and one-sixth of educators;
- reduce poverty and income inequality by raising the total annual income of the lowest-paid workers; and
- help to close racial earnings gaps.

As you know, the federal minimum wage has not increased since 2009. During that decade, many working families have lost ground, and lost hope. Several states have raised their minimum wages in the past 10 years, but it is time for the federal government to act. Doing so will improve the circumstances not only for the workers themselves, but for their family members and communities. Please VOTE YES and Raise the Wage.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association