

TO: All Legislators

FROM: Representative Lisa Subeck and Senator Dave Hansen

DATE: February 6, 2018

RE: Co-Sponsorship of LRB-4544 relating to: allowing the enactment of local minimum wage ordinances.

**DEADLINE: Tuesday, February 14 by 5pm.**

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. Twenty five percent of Wisconsinites are working low wage jobs that pay less than \$11.56 per hour which, even working full time, cannot keep a family of four out of poverty.<sup>1</sup>

Based on cost of living measures, an individual living in Fond du Lac would need to earn 4.4% more than someone living in Wisconsin Rapids or Marshfield. A person living the Madison area would have to make an additional 8.4% versus one living in Fond du Lac y.<sup>2</sup>

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, 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.

25 states allow local governments to establish local minimum wages. Over 40 local governments in states such as California, New Mexico, Arizona and Minnesota have passed local minimum wages. Most recently Minneapolis adopted its own local \$15 minimum wage.

Please consider co-sponsoring LRB-4544, which would restore local control to cities, towns, villages and counties to establish a local minimum wage.

**If you would like to co-sponsor LRB-4544, please respond to this email or call Rep. Subeck's office at 266-7521 by 5pm on Tuesday, February 14.**

***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.

1: "The State of Working Wisconsin 2016." Center on Wisconsin Strategies (COWS).

2: "Cost of Living Calculator." Cost of Living Calculator - Cost of Living Comparison Index Tool, Bankrate, [www.bankrate.com/calculators/savings/moving-cost-of-living-calculator.aspx](http://www.bankrate.com/calculators/savings/moving-cost-of-living-calculator.aspx).