



May 16, 2017

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bobby Scott
United States House of Representatives
1201 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
United States Senate
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Keith Ellison
United States House of Representatives
2263 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Murray and Sanders and Congressmen Scott and Ellison:

The National Federation of the Blind fully supports and endorses the inclusion of language to phase out and sunset Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act in the forthcoming Raise the Wage Act of 2017.

The National Federation of the Blind has advocated for the elimination of subminimum wages for people with disabilities since our founding, and this Act's recognition of the issue confirms that the time has long passed to eliminate the unfair and separate wage system. As one of the loudest voices in opposition to Section 14(c), we commend and fully support the inclusion of this landmark provision that we hope will shine a brighter light on this injustice in our society. The fact that paying disabled employees a subminimum wage has been allowed to occur for nearly eighty years is unconscionable, and we are committed to seeing the practice meet its long overdue end.

For those reasons, we appreciate the inclusion of language to phase out Section 14(c) in the Raise the Wage Act, and we fully support the goal of ending subminimum wages for workers with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Riccobono, President
National Federation of the Blind