

Raise the Wage Act of 2025

Senate HELP Committee Ranking Member Bernie Sanders

The Raise the Wage Act (RTWA) of 2025 will raise the federal minimum wage to \$17 over five years, eliminate the tipped subminimum wage over seven years, eliminate the subminimum wage for workers with disabilities over five years, and eliminate the subminimum wage for youth workers over seven years. RTWA will ensure American workers make a living wage, drive economic growth, and reduce income inequality.

Last year, nearly [one in four](#) workers in the U.S.—over 39 million people—made less than \$17 per hour. The average U.S. worker today makes about \$40 a week less than he or she made 52 years ago. Over roughly the same period, nearly \$80 trillion in wealth has been redistributed from the bottom 90 percent to the top one percent. According to [analysis](#) by the Economic Policy Institute (EPI), passing the Raise the Wage Act of 2025 would provide raises to over 22 million workers across the country by 2030.

- **The current federal minimum wage is just \$7.25 per hour and has not been increased since 2009.** The value of the federal minimum wage is the [lowest](#) since it has been since 1956 and has declined in value by over 32 percent since it was last increased in 2009.
- If the federal minimum wage would have kept pace with inflation since February 1968, the historic high point of the value of the minimum wage, it would be **\$14.93 today**.
- **The tipped subminimum wage is just \$2.13 per hour and has not been raised since 1991.** The approximately 4 million tipped workers in the U.S. depend on tips for, in many cases, over half of their income.
- **The median wage for at least 37,000 workers with disabilities is just \$3.50 per hour.**
- Workers earning less than \$17 are not just teenagers. **Over [87 percent](#) of workers making \$17 or less are over the age of 20.**
- Low-wage workers are generally concentrated in the South and, to a lesser degree, the Midwest. In Mississippi, the state with the greatest proportion of low-wage workers, nearly [34 percent](#) of workers make less than \$17 per hour.
- Black and Hispanic workers disproportionately earn low wages as compared to their white counterparts—and that disparity is even worse for women of color. **Nearly [40 percent](#) of Hispanic women and [35 percent](#) of Black women make less than \$17 per hour.**

Raise the Wage Act of 2025 Timelines

Year	Minimum Wage	Tipped	14(c)	Youth
2025	\$9.50	\$6	\$5	\$6
2026	\$11	\$8	\$7.50	\$7.75
2027	\$12.50	\$10	\$10	\$9.50
2028	\$14	\$12	\$12.50	\$11.25
2029	\$15.50	\$13.50	\$15.50	\$13
2030	\$17	\$15	Standard MW & Indexed	\$14.75
2031	Indexed	\$17		\$16.50
2032		Standard MW & Indexed		Standard MW & Indexed