



*No one who works full time should live in poverty.*

## New Mexicans For A Fair Wage

### Coalition Members

- ACORN
- Albuquerque Musicians' Association
- American Federation of Government Employees Local 4041
- American Federation of Teachers New Mexico
- AFSCME
- ARC of N.M.
- Community Action N.M.
- Consumer Direct Personal Care
- Communications Workers of America
- Democratic Party of Bernalillo County
- Democratic Party of Dona Ana County
- Democratic Party of New Mexico
- Democracy for New Mexico
- Dona Ana County NAACP
- Empowering Our Communities in New Mexico
- Enlace Comunitario
- Grant County Democratic Party
- Green Party N.M.
- Grey Panthers
- Health Action N.M.
- Hispano Roundtable of New Mexico
- Hogares, Inc.
- Homeless Advocacy Coalition
- League of Young Voters
- Lutheran Office of Governmental Ministry
- League of United Latin American Citizens
- MANA
- Mountain West Regional Council of Carpenters

### **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Legislators Vote Themselves Raise While Some Refuse To Commit to Minimum Wage Increase for Working New Mexicans**

SANTA FE – Members of New Mexicans for A Fair Wage coalition expressed outrage at the decision of New Mexico’s legislators yesterday to give themselves a 17 percent raise in their pension plan while some key senators continue to refuse to commit to a minimum wage increase for working New Mexicans.

Legislators’ pension plan also includes an automatic annual cost of living adjustment of 3 percent.

The statewide coalition has been working for months for an increase in New Mexico’s minimum wage to \$7.50, indexed to inflation with no preemption of local wage ordinances. Supporters are asking for legislation to include an annual cost of living increase which will not exceed 3 percent.

Indexing New Mexico’s minimum wage to inflation has been a key sticking point among many legislators.

The coalition supports the minimum wage bill sponsored by Speaker Lujan, and passed by the House, which increases New Mexico’s minimum wage to \$7.50 and provides an annual cost of living increase capped at 3 percent.

“Working New Mexicans like me are just asking for a modest step towards greater economic opportunity. By this action, legislators are telling New Mexico’s hard working families: ‘we will take care of ourselves, but we will not take care of you’,” said Mike Taylor, an Albuquerque resident and active member of ACORN who earns \$6.25 an hour.

Allen Sanchez, Executive Director of the NM Conference of Catholic Bishops added: “This is an issue of basic fairness. How can legislators possibly justify giving themselves greater economic security while some in the Senate continue to refuse to give it to working New Mexicans? Senators have less than 24 hours to help pass a meaningful wage increase for working New Mexican’s: \$7.50, indexed to inflation. We still hope they will do the right thing.”

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### Coalition Members

- NASW NM
- National Education Association
- National Lawyers Guild, New Mexico Chapter
- N.M. AFL-CIO
- N.M. Alliance for Retired Americans
- N.M Catholic Conference
- N.M. Council of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
- N.M. Building Construction and Trades Council
- N.M. Center on Law and Poverty
- N.M. Conference of Churches
- N.M. Council on Crime and Delinquency
- N.M. Federation of Labor Retiree Council
- N.M. Human Needs Coordinating Council
- N.M. PACE
- N.M. Voices for Children
- NM Women’s Agenda
- N.M. Pediatric Society
- N.M. Public Health Association
- Parents Reaching Out
- Progressive Voters Alliance
- Santa Fe County Sheriff’s Office
- Santa Fe Living Wage Network
- SEACWA
- Somos Un Pueblo Unido
- SouthWest Organizing Project
- Temple Beth Shalom
- United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 1564
- UNM Law and Society
- USW District 12