



Dear Governor Youngkin,

We are clergy and religious leaders from across Virginia. We respectfully urge you to sign the bill to increase Virginia's minimum wage.

Isaiah 65:22 envisions a world in which "No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat." We too envision a Virginia in which construction workers can afford a home, farmworkers can afford food, and healthcare workers can afford healthcare. Raising the minimum wage moves us toward this vision.

As you know, the minimum wage bill sent to you re-enacts a bill that was originally passed in 2020 that raised the minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$12.00 per hour. Before the last two proposed increases can be made to \$13.50 (January 2025) and then to \$15 (January 2026), the bill must be re-enacted and thus we need your signature on the bill.

Raising the minimum wage to \$15 will raise wages for approximately 611,000 Virginians. Most of these Virginians work at least 35 hours a week and nine out of 10 minimum wage workers are over age 20. These neighbors who earn low wages are disproportionately people of color and women. Most families in poverty have at least one family member who works full-time. Raising the minimum wage would help lift families out of poverty.

The most unifying principle across our faith traditions is caring for our neighbors as ourselves – the "golden rule." One important way we can care for our neighbors is to raise the minimum wage.

Thank you for your service to the Commonwealth. We urge you to sign the bill to increase the minimum wage.

Title or Role (Rev. Bishop, Elder, etc): _____

Name: _____

Congregation/Organization: _____
(listed for identification purposes only)

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Signature: _____

Please return the signed statement to Kim@virginiainterfaithcenter.org.