

ALERT

Legislative Alert #154

June 16, 2006

SENATE AND HOUSE ACTION NEEDED NOW!

SENATE:

Next week, Senator Kennedy will offer his minimum wage bill as an amendment to the Department of Defense authorization bill. The vote is likely to be on Wednesday. This is our best opportunity in years to raise the minimum wage and help millions of minimum wage workers get a raise. We need your help to call your Senators and the targets below and tell them to **SUPPORT** the Kennedy amendment and **OPPOSE** weakening amendments.

Target List

George Allen (R-VA)
Conrad Burns (R-MT)
Lincoln Chafee (R-RI)
Susan Collins (R-ME)
Norm Coleman (R-MN)
Mike DeWine (R-OH)

Pete Domenici (R-NM)
John Ensign (R-NV)
John McCain (R-AZ)
Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)
Rick Santorum (R-PA)
Gordon Smith (R-OR)
Ben Nelson (D-NE)

Olympia Snowe (R-ME)
Arlen Specter (R-PA)
Ted Stevens (R-AK)
James Talent (R-MO)
George Voinovich (R-OH)
John Warner (R-VA)

Please call the Senators and say:

"I urge you to vote for Senator Kennedy's minimum wage amendment to raise the minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour when it is offered on the floor as part of the Defense Authorization bill. We also urge the Senator to oppose amendments that would weaken this important worker protection. It is time to increase the minimum wage so that it finally provides a real income for low-wage workers."

HOUSE:

House Republican Leadership has called next week, "Health Care Week." Yet, instead of focusing on real health care reform, the Leadership will again focus on sham legislation like Association Health Plans, Medical Mal-Practice and Health Savings Accounts. These do not address the real health care crisis facing Americans. Please call your House Member and talk to them about the interim recommendations of the bi-partisan Citizens' Health Care Working Group (CHCWG). The CHCWG was established by Congress last year and has held national community hearings, met with health care specialists and received thousands of comments from Americans on what needs to be done to reform our health care system.

CHCWG has now made 6 interim recommendations which include:

1. Affordable health care for all Americans.
2. Define a "core" benefit package for all Americans.
3. Guarantee financial protection against very high health care costs.
4. Support integrated community health networks.

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