

A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY  
LEGISLATOR MILLS, LORIGO, RATH, & MORTON

Re: Opposition to proposed minimum raise hike for fast food workers

WHEREAS, the creation of a politically motivated wage board by Governor Cuomo has led to a recommendation of a \$15 minimum wage for fast food workers across the state by 2021, which is significantly higher than what it should be under inflation; and

WHEREAS, this body has determined that this is not a practical policy for the entirety of New York State and will ultimately lead to job cuts, layoffs, and fewer opportunities for those who this measure is purportedly intended to help; and

WHEREAS, this body finds that the fast-food industry already relies on automation to operate out of necessity and a policy doubling the salary of workers will only incentivize further automation and fewer new hires, increase work load for remaining staff, and start a more selective and competitive hiring process in the fast-food industry; and

WHEREAS, this honorable body hereby reinforces the fact that the economics of New York City are different than almost anywhere else in the world and what may be a good policy for the city may well be highly detrimental to most small business owners locally; and

WHEREAS, most fast food chains affected by recommendations are actually run by local entrepreneurs as franchises, therefore this increase specifically targets small business owners who took a risk to open up a business in our community; and

WHEREAS, it has been found that current minimum wages for the Buffalo-Niagara Region will buy almost twice what it would for a NYC resident and highlighting the fact that Western New York is not like New York City and our local entrepreneurs will be impacted more than those in NYC by Governor Cuomo's wage decree furthering the undesirability of New York State to businesses; and

WHEREAS, it is further found that a dramatic increase of wages at fast-food restaurants will lead to heightened pressure on small businesses outside of those covered under the Governors increase to similarly raise wages on their employees to retain their qualified workers leading many to either raise prices or close shop; and

WHEREAS, wage increases have traditionally been followed by increases in the cost of living and only a temporary increase in the standard of living, inevitably wage increases will lead to price increases harming low-income workers not in the fast food industry; and

WHEREAS, in order to increase wages government should be working together to lower taxes, support job creators, and create a regional economy where businesses want to come and establish themselves.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this honorable body implores the Governor of New York and the State Labor Commissioner to oppose this poorly conceived recommendation and to come up with a sensible alternative that helps create jobs and supports local entrepreneurs; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the New York State Labor Commissioner Mario Musolino Governor of the State of New York, the Western New York delegation to the NYS Legislature and any party deemed proper.

Fiscal Impact: Negative to small business owners and entrepreneurs