

Ballot Measure No. 1

An Act Increasing the Minimum Wage, Requiring Paid Sick Leave, and Prohibiting Mandatory Meetings about Religious or Political Issues

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT

This measure would allow workers to earn paid sick leave, gradually raise the state's minimum wage to \$15 per hour by July 1, 2027, and protect Alaskans from being forced to attend employer-sponsored political or religious meetings unrelated to their job. Vote YES on this ballot initiative to support Alaska's working families.

Fair wages and benefits make our communities, economy, and state stronger. Paid sick leave allows workers to recover when they are sick, and lets parents take care of a sick child. But 1-in-4 Alaska workers don't have a single paid sick day and can face an impossible choice between their paycheck and their family's health. Sending a sick child to school risks making them sicker and infecting others. Going to work sick risks spreading illness to coworkers, customers, and beyond. But missing a paycheck can mean having to choose between food or rent.

Working families drive the economy. When they can afford to buy basics and get sick without worrying about losing a day's pay, Alaska is stronger.

This ballot initiative would gradually raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2027, and tie it to inflation going forward. This is urgently needed and will make a real difference in the lives of hardworking Alaska families. A full-time minimum wage worker makes less than \$24,500 per year, making it nearly impossible to cover basics like food and housing. 23,600 Alaskan children who live in households with minimum wage workers would directly benefit from this policy.

It would allow full-time workers to earn up to 40 hours of paid sick leave per year. Workers deserve the time they need to provide care for their children, without facing the prospect of losing a day's paycheck.

And this initiative would prohibit employers from forcing employees to participate in employer-sponsored meetings regarding religious or political matters unrelated to their jobs. Alaska workers deserve freedom from their boss' political points of view in the workplace.

A large coalition of Alaskans from across the state has come together to support Ballot Measure 1, including over 100 small business owners that recognize that working families are the backbone of our economy. Join us in voting Yes on Ballot Measure 1.

Carey Fristoe, Fairbanks
Ed Flanagan, Juneau
Rep. Genevieve Mina, Anchorage