

2019

12/10 - 12/22

Placed by ROC United

- [**Chalk Another One Up to the Generation Gap: Millennials Tip Less and Stress About it More, The Washington Post, December 22, 2019**](#)

ROC United said: The survey “is another validation why millions of tipped workers and their families in the food service industry live in poverty and on food stamps. Because the income of tipped workers is mainly dependent on the whims of their customers, their struggles to make ends meet can be a daily occurrence. There’s one clear solution: raise the wages of all tipped workers to a full minimum, plus tips on top.”

- [**COLORS Opens Friday, Celebrating Black Culture, EATER New York, December 11, 2019**](#)

After a rough three-year closure, the Twin Towers staff restaurant Colors reopens Friday under the helm of chef Sicily Sewell-Johnson — with hopes to regain the trust of locals and a progressive community.

- [**Democrats Propose Removing Legislature from Michigan’s Ballot Initiative Process, Michigan Live, December 11, 2019**](#)

After a controversial move in the Michigan legislature significantly altered two citizen-led ballot initiatives last session, some House Democrats are suggesting lawmakers be removed from the initiative process entirely.

Other Media Coverage

- [**Lawmakers to Return to Capitol for Special Session, including Unpaid Wages for Tipped Workers, WSFB News, December 15, 2019**](#)

Restaurant owners have asked lawmakers to clarify rules about hours and wages for restaurant staff. They claim they are facing lawsuits because of

inconsistencies. But Governor Lamont vetoed a bill that lawmakers approved in the spring, claiming the bill stripped workers of their rights.

- [19 Attorneys General Protest Proposal that Would Rescind Protections for Tipped Workers, North Central PA.com, December 12, 2019](#)

This past Tuesday, 19 Attorneys General including Pennsylvania AG Josh Shapiro submitted a letter to the Department of Labor protesting a proposal that would rescind protections for tipped workers. The proposal would eliminate the "80/20 rule" - a requirement that workers being paid \$2.83 per hour should spend at least 80% of their time doing work that they will receive tips for.

- [Your Rights At Work: How To Review Pay Stubs And Protect Yourself From Wage Theft, WAMU, December 11, 2019](#)

Over the past two years, there's been an uptick of District workers accusing their employers of wage theft. So, how does wage theft happen, and what can you do about it? Here's a quick guide on identifying and fighting wage theft.

12/03 - 12/09

Other Media Coverage

- [Denver's Minimum Wage Vote is Roadmap for Other Cities -- and for Congress, The Colorado Independent, December 9, 2019](#)

Denver's recent historic vote to raise its minimum wage to more than \$15 an hour marks a long-overdue victory for local communities over big corporations that for 20 years blocked Denver and other cities from raising the minimum wage to help working Coloradans.

11/26 - 12/02

Other Media Coverage

- [Opinion: A Living Wage is Good Business, Bangor Daily News, November 29, 2019](#)

As the owners of the Portland Hunt + Alpine Club, we pay above the [minimum wage](#) because we believe that when you work for a living, you should be able to make a living. But it's not just the right thing to do — it's also good business.

- [House Democrats Have Passed Hundreds of Bills, Including Raise the Wage Act. Trump and Republicans are Ignoring Them, Vox, November 29, 2019](#)

There's a pervasive sense of legislative paralysis gripping Capitol Hill. And it's been there long before the impeachment inquiry began.

11/19 - 11/25

Placed by ROC United

- [Opinion: Restaurant Servers and Other Tipped Workers Face Poverty, Harassment, Racial Disparity on Subminimum Wage, Chicago Tribune, November 22, 2019](#)

"I am a server in a casual-fine dining restaurant in Logan Square, and I can tell you that the tipped wage system keeps working people in poverty. Too many workers in our city, who earn the subminimum tipped wage, have difficulty making ends meet or budgeting for their basic necessities of food, shelter and health care."

Other Media Coverage

- [PA House Democrats Push Workers' Bill of Rights, WENY News, November 21, 2019](#)

A group of House Democrats is pushing several pieces of legislation aimed at improving the rights of Pennsylvania workers. A total of 13 bills, including One Fair Wage, are included in the package.

- [New Mexico's Minimum Wage Is Going Up, KRWG, December 10, 2019](#)

On January 1, 2020 the New Mexico Minimum Wage will grow to \$9 an hour from its current rate of \$7.50 thanks to a law passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. This moves New Mexico from one of the lowest wages in the country to join most other states in raising pay for workers.

11/05 - 11/11

Placed by ROC United

- [As City Considers Minimum Wage Proposal, a New Study Finds that Black Female Tipped Workers are Struggling, Chicago Tribune, November 7, 2019](#)

One Fair Wage, along with the Restaurant Opportunities Centers United, released a report on Thursday that found more than 27% of black workers in Chicago's dining industry were living in poverty, compared to about 18% of white workers in the same occupation.

- [Study Underscores Need to Eliminate Chicago's Subminimum Wage for Tipped Workers, Chicago Sun Times, November 7, 2019](#)

Tipped workers in the Chicago area have twice the poverty rate of the rest of the area workforce, according to a new study. Some aldermen want to have those workers covered by the city's minimum wage, due to reach \$15 by 2021.

Other Media Coverage

- [King Pushes to Include Tipped Workers in \\$15 Minimum Wage, Despite Mayor's Opposition, Hyde Park Herald, November 7, 2019](#)

Ald. Sophia King continues her push to eliminate a sub-minimum wage for tipped workers, a component of her plan to raise the city's minimum wage to \$15 an hour, though Mayor Lori Lightfoot opposes including them.

10/22 - 10/28

Other Media Coverage

- [Opinion: I'm a Philly Pediatrician. Here's One Thing that Would Help My Patients Most, The Philadelphia Inquirer, October 26, 2019](#)

A friend asked me the other day what would do the most to improve the health of the children I see in my pediatric clinic. "Raising the minimum wage," I said without hesitation.

10/15 - 10/21

Placed by ROC United

- [Employees Allege Otus Supply Has Been Bouncing Checks for Months, Violating Labor Laws, Detroit Free Press, October 17, 2019](#)

According to ROC United's Alicia Farris, restaurant workers are often vulnerable because wage theft is a prevalent problem in the industry, "whether it's direct or some stolen hours through forcing people to do work after they punch out."

Other Media Coverage

- [Minimum Effort on Minimum Wage: Let's Send the Senate a Message, Daily Kos, October 18, 2019](#)

For most families, especially Black and brown families, their wages are simply not enough to keep up. The Republican-controlled Senate is holding the key to a better economy hostage, and it doesn't have to be this way.

- ["Virginia is for Restaurant Lovers" Campaign Celebrates Food Industry, Fairfax County Times, October 18, 2019](#)

With its "Virginia is for Restaurant Lovers" campaign, the VRLTA wants to raise awareness of the critical role that restaurants play in the state's economy and local communities, while also providing resources on workforce development, events, and legislation to industry members.

- [2020 Front-runner Want to Raise the Minimum Wage, But it's Not that Simple, October 17, 2019](#)

Democrats have traditionally branded themselves as the “working class” party, but the 2016 election results, which handed the Republican Party control of the White House and both chambers of Congress, left many wondering whether that’s still the case.

- [10 Disability Policy Questions Every Presidential Candidate Should Answer, Center for American Progress, October 15, 2019](#)

For more than 80 years, a certain classification of employers has been able to pay disabled workers [subminimum wage](#). Much of this work has been relegated to food service; janitorial work; mailroom and internal delivery; retail processing and inventory; office work; groundskeeping; and greeting at big-box stores.

10/08 - 10/14

Placed by ROC United

- [Tipping Your Servers 15-20 Percent is Standard. But What if Chicago Requires They Get Paid Full Minimum, October 10, 2019](#)

Like most restaurant servers across Chicago, Ali Baker earns a base hourly wage of \$6.40 per hour and relies on tips for the bulk of her income. Fluctuating paychecks — \$200 on a bad week, \$700 on a good one — can make it tough to pay bills.

- [La Colombe CEO said businesses should pay \\$15/hour minimum wage. But he doesn't, The Philadelphia Inquirer, October 10, 2019](#)

In the fall of 2017, Todd Carmichael, CEO of the coffee company La Colombe, one of Philly’s prominent national brands, [came out swinging](#) at Sen. Pat Toomey. The Pennsylvania Republican, Carmichael said, doesn’t support raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. But Carmichael — an entrepreneur who employs nearly 700 across the country — does.

Other Media Coverage

- [Trump tries to rob tipped workers – again, People’s World, December 11, 2019](#)

Donald Trump seems to have a particular hatred for poor workers, especially if they’re women, people of color, or both. He wants to make them poorer than they already are.

- [Opinion: Does 'no tipping' have future in Michigan? The Detroit News, October 9, 2019](#)

Detroit restaurant Magnet opened late last month with a novel "no tipping" policy, where menu prices are higher and staff receive a salary instead of tip income. The following week, Birmingham Italian restaurant La Strada announced it would implement a similar policy.

10/01 - 10/07

Placed by ROC United

- [Should Tipped Workers Also 'Fight for \\$15'?, WTTW News, October 4, 2019](#)

Nataki Rhodes, lead organizer with ROC's Chicago chapter, said: "In Chicago half of the tipped workers, including myself, still rely heavily on government assistance including, food stamps and medical cards because they [employers] don't provide insurance or it's too high."

Other Media Coverage

- [The U.S. Labor Market is Still Growing, But These Areas are Struggling, Forbes, October 4, 2019](#)

The national jobs report gets most of the press, but a less publicized [BLS report](#) released earlier this week provides important labor market data for state and metropolitan areas.

- [How Elizabeth Warren's Plan for Workers' Rights Would Help Women, Yahoo! News, October 3, 2019](#)

Warren is proposing several ideas, including extending labor rights, strengthening unions, increasing the federal minimum wage to \$15, expanding discrimination protections, and more.

- [Opinion: Does 'No Tipping' Have Future in Michigan? The Detroit News, October 7, 2019](#)

Detroit restaurant Magnet opened late last month with a novel "no tipping" policy, where menu prices are higher and staff receive a salary instead of tip income. The following week, Birmingham Italian restaurant La Strada announced it would implement a similar policy.

9/24 - 9/30

Placed by ROC United

- [Tipping Your Servers 15-20% is Standard. But What if Chicago Requires They Get Paid Full Minimum Wage? Chicago Tribune, September 23, 2019](#)

Ali Baker, a server and ROC United member, earns a base hourly wage of \$6.40 an hour and relies on tips for the bulk of her income. Fluctuating paychecks can make it tough to pay bills. While a proposed law considered by Chicago aldermen does not seek to end tipping, it disrupts a long-standing model that trusts customers to subsidize restaurant servers' incomes.

The story was picked up by hundreds of news outlets across the country, including:

- [Herald Courier, September 24, 2019](#)
- [The Miami Herald, September 24, 2019](#)
- [The Charlotte Observer, September 24, 2019](#)
- [The Fresno Bee, September 24, 2019](#)
- [The Kansas City Star, September 24, 2019](#)
- [Sun Herald, September 24, 2019](#)

Other Media Coverage

- [Cleveland's Poverty Numbers Should Shock Us All Into Advocacy, The Plain Dealer, September 30, 2019](#)

The numbers are depressing enough if we accept the federal government's rigid definition of poverty: a single person making less than \$13,064 a year and a single parent with two children bringing in \$20,212. Using that definition, 39 percent of Cleveland's residents are living in poverty and 50.5 percent of the city's children.

- [70% of Workers are Likely to Quit at Current \\$7.25 Federal Minimum Wage in 'Brutal' Turnover Cycle, CNBC News, September 25, 2019](#)

According to recent data, at \$15/hour, turnover rates drop significantly from 70 percent (at the current federal minimum wage) down to 41 percent. Results from Seattle's minimum wage ordinance: employee turnover declined as a result of the city's minimum wage increase, and employees worked fewer hours because they could earn more in less time.

- [What a \\$15 Minimum Wage Would Mean for the Restaurant Industry, Modern Restaurant Management, Sept. 24, 2019](#)

In theory, hourly workers are due for a raise. The value of \$7.25 per hour has declined by 16% in real value terms over the last decade due to inflation and a rising cost of living. But not all industries could transition seamlessly into a new minimum wage requirement — especially the restaurant industry and its notoriously slim profit margins.

9/17 - 9/23

Placed by ROC United

- [He's One of Detroit's Most Important Chefs. It's Time You Knew His Name," Detroit Free Press, September 20, 2019](#)

Over the last 10 years, Phil Jones, a member of ROC United, has transitioned from a restaurant chef to what he begrudgingly calls a “community chef.” A majority of his work now is pro bono and centers on food activism.

- [**Ortiz Supports Eliminating Subminimum Wage For Tipped Workers, Kings County Politics, September 19, 2019**](#)

Assistant Speaker Félix W. Ortiz (D-Sunset Park, Red Hook) announced he sent a letter to Governor Cuomo requesting that he move New York toward One Fair Wage, eliminating the subminimum wage for tipped workers.

- [**King presses for Minimum Wage Increase at Workforce Committee Hearing, Hyde Park Herald, September 17, 2019**](#)

Ald. Sophia King (4th) argued in favor of her ordinance to raise the city minimum wage to \$15 an hour on July 1, 2021, calling the move “necessary and right” as the Committee on Workforce Development heard testimony on the matter.

- [**Chicago May Fast-Track \\$15 Minimum Wage, Phase Out Lower Tipped Wage, WBEZ, September 17, 2019**](#)

According to Teofilo Reyes, the research director with the Restaurant Opportunities Center, “the goal of Raise Chicago ordinance is to raise the floor so that everyone can flourish.”

- [**Chicago Could Raise Tipped Restaurant Workers’s Wages, Eater Chicago, September 17, 2019**](#)

Chicago lawmakers are considering increasing the minimum wage restaurant and bar owners pay their tipped workers. Major players, including ROC United and lobbyists from the Illinois Restaurant Association, gathered last Tuesday at city hall for a hearing to debate the merits of tip credits.

Other Media Coverage

- [**Labor had a banner year in California — now will workers unionize? The Mercury News, September 21, 2019**](#)

As state lawmakers wrap up for the year, labor is celebrating a banner year in Sacramento: [New restrictions](#) on California charter schools, a bill to allow [unionization for child care workers](#), and the signing of [AB 5](#), a nationally watched measure converting 1 million California freelancers into employees while granting them a suite of protections along with the right to join unions.

9/12 - 16

Placed by ROC United

- [When American Waitresses Were Labeled ‘Women of Ill Repute’, Atlas Obscura, September 16, 2019](#)

Nell wasn't the only waitress in the Chicago restaurant who found herself turning to some form of sex work, from casual dates in exchange for clothes or gifts, to sex acts in exchange for money. Since the #MeToo movement swept American workplaces in 2017, stories like Nell's have increasingly made the news.

- [Letters: Tipped Minimum Wage Makes it Hard to Survive, Chicago Tribune, September 13, 2019](#)

As a single mother struggling to put food on the table while paying my rent, Honni Harris, a ROC Chicago member, writes that she knows “how hard it is to survive” in Chicago. “Every day,” she adds, she wonders “if the next knock on the door will be the sheriff coming to evict her family.”

- [Raising Pa.’s Minimum Wage Remains a Political Football as Penn State-Pitt Fans will Notice on Saturday, PennLive.com, September 13, 2019](#)

Groups pushing for an increase in Pennsylvania's \$7.25 hourly minimum wage didn't get [their legislation across the goal line in June](#) so they are taking to the airspace above Beaver Stadium on Saturday morning to send a message about this unfinished piece of legislative business.

Other Media Coverage

- [Federal Judge Rules Hotels can Sue Trump for Unfair Competition, The National Memo, September 14, 2019](#)

A lawsuit by restaurant workers and a restaurateur who say Donald Trump has business conflicts that violate the Constitution was restored Friday by a federal appeals court after a judge on a lower court dismissed it. Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington first filed the lawsuit. It was later joined by ROC United and two individuals in the hotel industry.

- ['Born Out of the Fight Against 77,' Restaurant Workers Form a New Advocacy Group, DCist, September 13, 2019](#)

A group of vocal restaurant and bar workers fought against the passage of Initiative 77 and formed the DC Bar and Restaurant Workers Alliance. They argued that eliminating the tipped minimum wage would be a disaster for the industry, leading to restaurant closures and loss of jobs.

- [The Human Cost of a Cheap Manicure, Portside, September 13, 2019](#)

With low prices and endless design options, a quick trip to the nail salon can feel like a harmless indulgence — but it's important to remember that your pretty set of gels comes at a very real human cost. The nail salon industry has been built on the suffering of female employees, but now, those workers are organizing to change the course of their future.

- [Who Are the Best and the Worst Tipppers? Forbes.com, September 12, 2019](#)

Call it a tipping paradox: A new survey finds that men and millennials are the worst tipppers, but, when they decide to tip, they leave more money than the best tipppers, women and Baby Boomers.

9/11 — SPECIAL EDITION: Windows on the World Survivors Marked 9/11 Anniversary at Soon-to-be-Opened COLORS Restaurant

On the 18th anniversary of September 11th, Windows on the World workers joined elected officials, artists, activists and restaurant workers to honor their fallen brothers and sisters at the soon-to-be-opened COLORS Restaurant at 178 Stanton Street in Manhattan's Lower East Side neighborhood.

- [Surviving Workers from Windows on the World Start New Restaurant, ABC 7 News, September 11, 2019](#)

A group of workers from Windows on the World have reopened a newly renovated restaurant that honors their friends who died in the World Trade Center. At the restaurant COLORS on the Lower East Side, they gathered Wednesday, just as they have for 18 years - a family forever connected by 9/11.

- ['Windows on the World' Employees Launch New Restaurant, PIX11 News, September 11, 2019](#)

Eighteen years after the terror attack on 9/11, there was a reunion of sorts inside of Colors, a Lower East Side eatery founded by former employees of the Windows on the World restaurant, which sat on the top floors of the north tower in the World Trade Center. Seventy-three Windows on the World employees were among the thousands who perished on 9/11.

- [COLORS Restaurant to Reopen on the Lower East Side, AMNew York, September 11, 2019](#)

When the Lower East Side cooperative restaurant COLORS — which employed many survivors of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks — closed in 2017, so did an opportunity for survivors to thrive. But now those survivors are making a return to the LES. On Wednesday, the 18th anniversary of the attacks, they will join elected officials, artists, and activists to announce that COLORS will reopen in October.

- [Restaurant Founded by Twin Towers Restaurant Staff Will Reopen on the LES, Eater NY, September 11, 2019](#)

COLORS — the rocky restaurant that opened in 2006 by surviving Windows on the World employees after the September 11 terrorist attacks — will reopen this October on the Lower East Side after closing in 2017. The restaurant will be located at 178 Stanton Street, between Clinton and Attorney streets.

- [COLORS Restaurant, Founded by 9/11 Survivors, to Reopen on the Lower East Side, 6SQFT.com, September 11, 2019](#)

COLORS restaurant in downtown Manhattan was originally founded by employees of the Windows on the World restaurant on the 107th floor of the World Trade Center, and employed many restaurant workers who lost their jobs on the day of the terrorist attacks.

9/3 - 910 - SPECIAL EDITION: 'Server for An Hour' Event with Rep. Hakeem Jeffries

On September 3, elected officials -- including Representative Hakeem Jeffries, Assemblymembers Ellen Jaffee and Walter Mosley -- and celebrities held a "server for an hour" event at Locals Restaurant in downtown Brooklyn to call for an end to the subminimum wage for tipped workers.

- [Politicians Get a Taste of What It's Like Working in a Restaurant, NY1 News, September 3, 2019](#)

This time it was cooks, waitresses and busboys who were the ones being served. The wait staff: Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, and Assembly Members Ellen Jaffee and Walter Mosley. They want Albany and Washington DC to mandate a \$15 an hour minimum for all tipped workers.

- [Local Officials Wait on Restaurant Workers to Raise Awareness, PIX11 News, September 3, 2019](#)

Representative Hakeem Jeffries of the 8th congressional district was among a group of officials who took part in the "server for an hour" event at a downtown Brooklyn restaurant. The role swap was meant to shed light on the plight of restaurant workers.

- [Jeffries, Mosley 'Wait Tables' in Support of Raising Wages for Tipped Workers, Kings County Politics, September 3, 2019](#)

The lawmakers called for an end to the subminimum wage for tipped workers. The event also urged Gov. Andrew Cuomo to enact One Fair Wage, a policy that would increase the minimum wage to \$15 an hour for hundreds of thousands of tipped workers in New York.

- [**Pols Against Tip Wage But Unsure About Tip-Sharing, Crain's New York, September 4, 2019**](#)

Some Albany lawmakers want to raise the wage, but they're not so sure about sharing the wealth. But Tremaine Wright, Walter Mosley, Ellen Jaffee and Hakeem Jeffries had different views on changing state law to let kitchen workers get a slice of servers' tips.

- [**The Week Ahead in New York Politics, Gotham Gazette, September 2, 2019**](#)

On Tuesday, "elected officials, celebrities and supporters held a 'server for an hour'" events at local restaurants in downtown Brooklyn "to call for an end to the subminimum wage for tipped workers. The event also called on Gov. Andrew Cuomo to enact One Fair Wage, a policy that would increase the minimum wage to \$15 an hour for hundreds of thousands of tipped workers in New York.

Other Non-Server for an Hour Event Coverage

- [**NYC's First Lady, Public Advocate Rally with Workers to Call for Passage of Paid Personal Time, Patch.com, September 10, 2019**](#)

According to Sekou Siby, executive director of ROC United, restaurant workers work long hours for long pay and never get a day off when a loved one dies, to deal with an emergency for their child, or just to spend time with their child. "All workers deserve time off to deal with family issues or to rest and spend time with their families," he said.

8/22 - 9/2

Placed by ROC United

- [**The Past Decade Has Brought a Sea Change in Food and Farm Labor, Civil Eats, August 27, 2019**](#)

The past 10 years has brought major changes to the workers who grow, harvest, prepare, and serve the food we eat. The highlights include the first federal bill to increase the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour, an ongoing national

conversation about—and actions taken to stop—sexual harassment and forced labor in the workplace.

- [How ROC United is Tackling Racial Bias in the Restaurant Industry, New Hope, August 27, 2019](#)

What started as an effort to support displaced New York City restaurant workers after September 11, 2001, has grown into a nationwide organization leading the way through diversity and inclusion.

- [Oakland's Restorative-Justice Hub Wants to Redefine Public Safety, City Lab, August 23, 2019](#)

This fall, a building will open in Oakland's Fruitvale neighborhood that hopes to become a different sort of community landmark, dedicated both to keeping the community safe and to breaking the cycle of poverty and imprisonment.

Other Media Coverage

- [Stop Wage Theft in West Virginia, The Herald Dispatch, September 1, 2019](#)

The West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy released a report on wage theft in West Virginia. Wage theft can be defined in many ways, including minimum wage violations, overtime violations, illegal deductions, employee misclassification, and tipped minimum wage violations.

- [\\$15 Minimum Wage—Apps, Order Kiosks And Robots Will Make It Irrelevant For The Fast Food Industry, Forbes, September 1, 2019](#)

By the time such a minimum wage is introduced and implemented nationwide, the average fast food worker will be in one of two positions. They will either be making more than \$15/hour anyway, or they'll be out of a job. That's because robots, apps, and order kiosks are able to do their job for less than \$15 an hour.

- [Employers could see a post-Labor Day Flurry of Federal Rulemaking, Restaurant Hospitality, August 30, 2019](#)

The days or weeks after Labor Day are expected to bring a torrent of long-awaited rules from the Labor Department, including the salary threshold for determining who is eligible for overtime pay and changes to tip-pooling restrictions as well as proposed regulations clarifying when employers can use the tip credit for non-tipped work — known as the 80/20 rule.

- [José Andrés Sued For Underpaying At Hudson Yards Restaurant, Patch.com, August 30, 2019](#)

Renowned chef and humanitarian José Andrés was sued this week for stiffing workers at his recently-opened food hall in Hudson yards by paying them the wrong minimum wage and failing to pay properly for overtime work, according to a lawsuit.

8/20 - 8/26: SPECIAL EDITION: Cover Story in Time Magazine and Front-page Story in The Washington Post

This week, Time Magazine published its cover story, featuring restaurant workers and members of ROC United. In The Washington Post, a front-page story tackled why restaurant workers in One Fair Wage states are getting the minimum wage and still tips on top.

- [Low Wages, Sexual Harassment and Unreliable Tips. This Is Life in America's Booming Service Industry, Time Magazine \(Cover Story\), August 22, 2019](#)

The decade-long economic expansion has been a boon to those at the top of the economic ladder. But it left millions of workers behind, particularly the 4.4 million workers who rely on tips to earn a living, [fully two-thirds of them women](#).

- [Time report shows living on tips is no longer viable, Yahoo Finance, August 22, 2019](#)

A new report from the Time shows that 4.4 million workers rely on tips to earn a living — but as minimum wage for waitresses and other tipped workers has stayed the same since 1991 — living on tips has become unlivable.

- [If restaurant servers get a minimum-wage hike, should you still tip 20 percent? The Washington Post, August 20, 2019](#)

ROC United, the New York-based organization behind many of these campaigns for “one fair wage,” has no plans to give up its push to eliminate the lower minimum wage, which the group says leaves tipped workers vulnerable to sexual harassment, wage theft and other problems.

- [Taking tips out of minimum wage debate, San Francisco Gate, August 20, 2019](#)

You may have missed this news as President Donald Trump's racist tweetstorm rained down on the "Squad" in July, but the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill that would gradually raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour, the first increase for those on the lowest rung of the U.S. workforce since 2009.

- [Stamford Advocate](#)
- [Westport News](#)
- [Connecticut Post](#)

8/13 - 8/19

Placed by ROC United

- [Opinion: Governor, Put Support Behind Everyday Tipped Workers, Times Union, August 19, 2019](#)

Two years ago, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced that the subminimum wage was one of the inequities that his administration would investigate. Yet here we are in 2019, and the state still permits substandard wages to be paid to hundreds of thousands of workers.

- [Too Many Restaurants are Cheating Workers Out of Wages, Tips, and Overtime, Investigators Say, Sun Sentinel, August 17, 2019](#)

ROC United says most workers don't complain out of fear. But to keep employers honest, the group encourages workers to document everything about their pay — how much they receive in their checks, what their employers deduct for taxes and tip credits, and when they begin and finish their shifts.

- [Commentary: A Fast-food Worker Makes the Case for a \\$15 Wage, Orlando Sentinel, August 17, 2019](#)

As the historic Raise the Wage Act vote took place, workers with the Fight for \$15, who have spent the last seven years walking off the job to demand \$15 and the right to unionize, applauded the House. This was the first step in a long journey to guarantee workers across our country a fair wage.

Other Media Coverage

- [Yes, We Can Have a \\$20 Minimum Wage And More, Jacobin Magazine, August 18, 2019](#)

Where exactly is the cutoff point where such effects would begin to be seen on a large enough scale to really make an increase a net loss for low-wage workers? It's hard to pin it down with any precision, but we can still be confident that an increase to \$20 would hardly cause the economy to come crashing down around us.

- [How Does Minimum Wage Affect Inflation and Small Businesses, WBOY, August 14, 2019](#)

One of the larger arguments against minimum wage is that it causes inflation. To some degree, inflation can rise when people have more money to spend and are willing to pay a higher price. But a state that offers a competitive minimum wage could draw in more business.

8/06 - 8/12

Placed by ROC United

- [Study Concludes No One Was Hurt in Unions' Fight for \\$15 an Hour, The Chief-Leader, August 13, 2019](#)

A report released by the New School's Center for New York City Affairs and the National Employment Law Project assessed how NYC restaurants fared between 2013 and 2018, showing gains in restaurant sales, employment, pay and the number of full-service and limited-service establishments.

- [**A Look at Immigration Status in the Workplace, WTTW PBS Chicago, August 13, 2019**](#)

In recent days, the fear of ICE raids in Chicago has been high. Ismael Enriquez of the Restaurant Opportunities Center of Chicago lives in Little Village, which has a large Latino and immigrant population. He says a once-bustling economic driver of the neighborhood is now quiet.

- [**Raising Minimum Wage Hasn't Hurt States, U.S. News, August 9, 2019**](#)

Higher minimum wages might increase the costs of goods, says ROC United of Michigan's Pete Vargas, which supports an increase in the minimum wage. But "you either contribute to it at the front end, or you contribute to it at the back end" by subsidizing basic necessities for low-wage workers.

- [**Cost of the 'American Dream,' ENCA TV News, August 7, 2019**](#)

Struggling to pay her rent, medical bills and basic expenses such as babysitting, and to put food on the table for her family, Taria Vines, a restaurant worker for over 30 years and member of ROC United, says she needs to rely on public assistance.

- [**NYC Restaurants 'Thriving' While Paying \\$15 Minimum Wage, Study Finds, Gothamist, August 7, 2019**](#)

Despite apocalyptic warnings from restaurateurs that a \$15 minimum wage would ruin business, a new study suggests that higher earnings for employees haven't actually hurt the hospitality industry—in fact, the city's eateries overall are "thriving."

Other Media Coverage

- [**The US Labor Shortage, Explained, Vox, August 12, 2019**](#)

The US economy doesn't have enough workers. For a record 16 straight months, the number of open jobs has been higher than the number of people looking for work. The US economy had 7.4 million job openings in June, but only 6 million people were looking for work, according to data released by the US Department of Labor.

- [The \\$15 Minimum Wage Was Supposed to Bring About the 'Restaurant Apocalypse' — But it Didn't, The Business Insider, August 12, 2019](#)

While many economists and restaurant owners were worried a higher minimum wage would kill jobs and raise prices, cities like New York, Chicago, Washington, D.C. and San Francisco haven't seen much impact yet.

- [The Federal Minimum Wage Doesn't Matter Anymore, The Wall Street Journal, August 11, 2019](#)

Twenty-nine states representing about 60 percent of the workforce have set their minimum wages higher, and dozens of large employers have pledged to pay employees well more than \$7.25 an hour. As a result, a tiny share of Americans, just 0.28% of the 156 million civilian workers, earned the federal minimum last year.

- [NYC Restaurants are 'Flourishing' Despite Minimum Wage Hikes, Study Says, AMNew York, August 8, 2019](#)

While the city's minimum wage for tipped restaurant workers with 11 or more employees rose to \$5 an hour in 2013, restaurant sales increased on average 6.6% annually starting in 2014 to reach \$22 billion in 2018, according to the report issued by the Center for New York City at the New School and the National Employment Law Project.

7/30 - 8/05

Placed by ROC United

- [New York City Businesses Struggle to Keep Up After Minimum Wage Increase, The Wall Street Journal, August 5, 2019](#)

After the minimum wage increased and some businesses claimed they struggle, ROC United said that “there are other factors beyond higher wages that result in unsuccessful businesses in New York City, and owners shouldn’t blame the boost for their struggles.”

- [**Debates, Democracy and Dancing: Breaking Through with Kristin Rowe-Finkbeiner \(Segment starts 12:10\), WPWC 1480 AM, August 5, 2019**](#)

The Raise the Wage Act was passed July 18 in Congress, and ROC United’s Alicia Farris discussed on a radio show how the historic vote on raising the minimum wage means to workers and why tipping is a legacy of slavery.

- [**Letter to the Editor: Supreme Court: Do What is Right for Us, The Daily Mining Gazette, August 3, 2019**](#)

Instead of respecting the will of the people and allowing voters to weigh in on the proposals, the Republican majority in our State Legislature passed the proposals into law to keep them off the ballot.

- [**Opinion: Tipping, Fairness and the New Economy: The Real Way to Attack Economic Injustice is to End the Tip Credit, NY Daily News, July 31, 2019**](#)

ROC United’s Saru Jayaraman and Postmates’ Vikrum Aiyer said that they “share common values, a commitment to empowering workers, and a revulsion to improper wage practices and outdated laws that decouple the safety net from independent work.” They believe the tech industry can be a force for progress and do more to lift up workers and the entire economy.

- [**Netroot Nations Brings Crowds to the Streets and Fireworks to the Panels, GeneroCity, July 31, 2019**](#)

In PA, tipped workers, like many of those who work in food service, are paid as little as \$2.83 an hour, a rate that has not changed in almost three decades. The Raise the Wage Act calls for One Fair Wage — a policy that would require employers to pay workers, including tipped workers, a full minimum wage of \$15 an hour plus tips.

- [**In Denver, Governor Bullock Serves Beers and Snacks to Advocate for Workers Rights at One Fair Wage Event, NH Labor News, July 30, 2019**](#)

Montana Governor Steve Bullock participated in One Fair Wage Action's "Server for an Hour" challenge to showcase his hospitality and smooth pour at Cervceria Colorado in Denver. At the event, he joined restaurant workers to highlight the exploitative nature of the \$2.13 an hour federal tipped minimum wage — a wage that has not been increased in 28 years.

Other Media Coverage

- [**3 Ways to Improve the Outcomes for African Americans in the Rural South, American Progress, August 5, 2019**](#)

When politicians talk about rural America, they seemingly only focus on these areas' white residents, neglecting the fact that they are home to a significant number of African Americans.

- [**Former Employees Accuse Coffeehouse Owner of Sexual Harassment, WESA 90.5, August 2, 2019**](#)

At Biddle's Escape restaurant, three employees have complained of sexual harassment against their employer. Although none of the three filed criminal charges, their stories suggest a troubling pattern of behavior by their employer, who is well-known in the community and in 2017 ran for Wilkinsburg Borough Council as a write-in candidate.

- [**Tip Pool Rule Heads to White House as Regulatory Probe Looms, Bloomberg News, July 31, 2019**](#)

The proposed rule would make it easier for employers to require front-of-the-house employees—such as servers and bartenders—who earn at least the standard minimum wage and customarily receive tips to share those gratuities with cooks, dishwashers and other back-of-the-house workers who aren't usually tipped.

- [**10 Lauded Black Chefs to Celebrate Black Culinary Culture Next Month, Chicago Eater, July 31, 2019**](#)

For the first time, 10 esteemed black chefs and industry members will come together in Chicago to honor African American culinary icon Edna Lewis at an event called the “South Side Chefs Revival and Homecoming” next month. A study found that 81 percent of management positions were occupied by white employees, and 28 percent of workers denied a promotion stated they believe it was a matter of race.

7/23 - 7/29

Placed by ROC United

- [Restore Oakland Opens in the Fruitvale District, East Bay Express, July 29, 2019](#)

Last Tuesday, approximately 200 community leaders, organizers, restaurant workers, and community members gathered to celebrate the opening of Restore Oakland, a long-awaited job training facility and community resource center in the Fruitvale district.

- ['Restore Oakland' Job Training Center Opens, The Oakland Post, July 27, 2019](#)

“Restore Oakland,” a one-of-a-kind community hub, opened its doors this week with plans to provide local residents with access to housing rights legal services, eviction protection, training for higher-paying jobs, hosting organizing meetings, obtaining resources to launch and incubate a food-oriented small business, resolving conflict through restorative justice circles and enjoying a healthy sit-down meal.

- [States with High Minimum Wages Are Doing Just Fine, Bloomberg News, July 26, 2019](#)

California, New York and Washington were among the first to start phasing in a \$15 hourly rate, and their economies expanded with bigger boosts in personal income, job growth and consumer spending than the 21 states resisting anything above \$7.25. Since 2015, the economies of the higher-minimum wage states are substantially more robust than the rest of the U.S.

- [**Congresswomen, ‘Server for an Hour’ Event Draws Attention to Inequities of Tipped Workers, Times-Herald, July 26, 2019**](#)

Colors Restaurant was crowded July 21 as elected officials waited tables during the Michigan One Fair Wage “Server for an Hour” event. U.S. Reps. Debbie Dingell, Rashida Tlaib, and Brenda Lawrence served restaurant guests to highlight the Raise the Wage Act, which was passed by the U.S. House on July 18.

- [**The Restaurant Industry Has a Mental Health Crisis, The Outline, July 23, 2019**](#)

Servers, line cooks, and dishwashers all over America are struggling to find help in an industry that often exacerbates the problem. ROC United member Marie Billiel said, “It wasn’t great for my well-being. I felt a level of anxiety, depression, dread and foreboding every day.”

Other Media Coverage

- [**Opinion: Doordash Isn’t Alone — Almost Every Restaurant in America Uses Tips to Pad the Bottom Line, The Deseret News, July 29, 2019**](#)

As we fight for workers rights in our new app-based economy, let’s not forget the workers in more traditional jobs who are experiencing equivalent levels of exploitation. Every worker, whether they’re a delivery driver or a server in a restaurant, deserves to earn a livable wage.

- [**Raising the Minimum Wage to \\$15 Could Add Over \\$100,000 to Social Security Benefits for Many Workers, MarketWatch, July 27, 2019**](#)

Higher wages would allow workers to put more of their money in a retirement account, even if it was still a low percentage of their salaries. But the impact of raising the minimum wage goes beyond an individual’s own savings rate and affects other aspects of retirement planning — especially Social Security.

- [2020 Democratic Race Renews Focus on \\$15 Minimum Wage in South Carolina, The Post and Courier, July 28, 2019](#)

South Carolina is one of five states in the country without a state minimum wage, even as most have adopted rates higher than the \$7.25-per-hour federal minimum. Research shows about 684,000 South Carolina workers — or a third of the state’s workforce — would see their wages increase if a \$15 federal minimum wage were adopted by 2025.

- [Buttigieg Unveils Economic Plan to Support Unions, Temp Workers, UPI, July 26, 2019](#)

Democratic presidential hopeful Pete Buttigieg rolled out a plan Friday that aims to raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour, strengthen unionized workers and those in temporary positions, pay transparency and expand protections for farm workers.

- [Opinion: Why America Needs a Higher Minimum Wage, Tampa Bay Times, July 26, 2019](#)

This is why we need a higher minimum wage: “I started working in fast food more than 20 years ago — most of my adult life — and today, I still make just \$8.95 an hour. I struggle to cover every penny of the rising cost of rent, food and transportation, and I can’t even think of putting away for retirement.”

7/16 - 7/22 — SPECIAL EDITION

On July 18, 2019, amid a national debate on racial and gender-based wage gap and inequality, the United States House of Representatives made a historic vote on the Raise the Wage Act of 2019 (HR 582), marking a milestone towards increasing the federal minimum wage for all workers, including tipped workers, nationwide and lifting millions of families out of poverty. ROC has earned a significant media coverage on the Raise the Wage Act vote. Here are some of the media highlights:

- [House OKs \\$15 Minimum Wage, Setting Marker for 2020 Campaign, The Associated Press, July 18, 2019](#)

For the first time in a decade, House Democrats approved legislation last week to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, transforming an issue that once splintered the party into a benchmark for the 2020 election. ROC United's Saru Jayaraman said that "once you start raising workers' wages it's hard to go back."

- [The Boston Globe, July 18, 2019](#)
 - [The Los Angeles Times, July 18, 2019](#)
 - [The Philadelphia Tribune, July 18, 2019](#)
 - [The Chicago Sun Times, July 18, 2019](#)
 - [NBC News, July 18, 2019](#)
 - [ABC News, July 18, 2019](#)
 - [Anchorage Daily News, July 18, 2019](#)
 - [Breitbart.com, July 18, 2019](#)
 - [The Richmond Times Dispatch, July 18, 2019](#)
- [House Votes to Eliminate One Legacy of Slavery — Subminimum Wages, Truthout, July 18, 2019](#)

The lingering existence of subminimum wages is a **legacy of slavery** that advocates say must be eliminated to close the gender pay gap and combat sexual harassment and exploitation.

- [House Passes Bill to Raise Minimum Wage to \\$15 Per Hour, The New York Post, July 18, 2019](#)

Advocates said House passage was a step forward for low-income workers, including those who rely on tips. "It shows what we can do when we are united to instill the tenets of equality for every hardworking individual in this great nation," said ROC United in a press statement.

- [New York Advocates Cheer House Minimum Wage Vote, NY State of Politics, July 18, 2019](#)

Advocates and labor unions on Thursday cheered the passage of a bill in the Democratic-led House of Representatives that would increase the federal minimum wage to \$15. But in New York, much of the focus of late has been on increasing the minimum wage for tipped workers. The bill approved Thursday would increase the wage for tipped workers from \$2.13 to \$15.

- [Opinion: The Racist History of Tipping, Politico.com, July 17, 2019](#)

You might not think of tipping as a legacy of slavery, according to *Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II*, but it has a far more racialized history than most Americans realize. The practice of tipping spread throughout the country after the Civil War as U.S. employers, largely in the hospitality sector, looked for ways to avoid paying formerly enslaved workers.

- [Activists Salute NYC Workers as House Gets Set to Vote on 'Historic' \\$15 Minimum Wage, Labor Press, July 16, 2019](#)

Advocates for the establishment of a nationwide \$15 an-hour minimum wage are confident House Democrats will pass the Raise the Wage Act of 2019 on Thursday — and they credit fast food workers and other low-wage earners in New York City with spearheading the entire effort seven years ago.

Other RTW/OFW and Restaurant Industry Coverage:

- [Tlaib Calls for \\$20 an Hour Minimum Wage at 'Server for an Hour' Event, Fox News, July 22, 2019](#)

Rep. Rashida Tlaib said at a “Server for an Hour” event in Detroit, MI: “Think about that for one minute. People cannot live on those kind of wages, and I can't allow people to be living off tips, you know, relying on tips for wages. It's just not enough to support our families. By the way, when we started it, it should have been \$15.”

- [Rep. Rashida Tlaib Calls for \\$20 An Hour Minimum Wage, Yahoo! News, July 22, 2019](#)

Democratic Michigan Rep. Rashida Tlaib called for a federal minimum wage of up to \$20 an hour at a “One Fair Wage” event in Detroit on Sunday.

- [What the Research Says About a \\$15 Minimum Wage, Pacific Standard, July 18, 2019](#)

A growing body of research indicates that job losses could be less extreme than the CBO projects. A working paper published earlier this month by economists at

the University of California–Berkeley found positive effects of raising wages and no adverse effects on employment, weekly hours, or annual hours worked.

- [State Legislators Work as ‘Servers for an Hour’ in Push for Minimum Wage Increase for Working Families, The Philadelphia Tribune, July 16, 2019](#)

In a press release sent by ROC United, a record number of state legislators waited tables for an hour on Friday afternoon at a restaurant in downtown Philadelphia in support of the federal Raise the Wage Act nationwide and One Fair Wage in the state.

7/09 - 7/15

Placed by ROC United

- [Planned ICE Raids are Putting the Restaurant Industry on Edge, The Washington Post, July 12, 2019](#)

Fear, said ROC United’s Saru Jayaraman, is part of the Trump administration’s tactics when announcing, in advance, when the ICE raids will take place. It’s both the specificity (10 cities) and the randomness (no one knows where agents will show up) that cause anxiety among workers, she added.

- [Why 7 Pa. Legislators ‘Worked’ at a Burrito Shop Friday, The Philadelphia Inquirer, July 12, 2019](#)

A group of Pennsylvania Democratic legislators served chips and salsa at El Fuego, a burrito shop next to Washington Square Park Friday to call attention to two efforts — on the state and federal level — to raise the minimum wage for the first time in almost 10 years, [the longest](#) the U.S. has ever gone without increasing it.

- [Your Boss Might be Ripping You Off: How to Protect Yourself from Wage Theft, Teen Vogue, July 10, 2019](#)

Wage theft affects millions of people, [particularly women, people of color, and immigrants](#). Low-wage workers are acutely vulnerable to wage theft, and when wages are low to begin with, any amount the employer withholds can have dire

consequences for the worker. The average low-wage worker [loses \\$3,300 a year](#) to wage theft, according to a survey by the Economic Policy Institute.

- [Will a \\$15 Minimum Wage Kill Jobs and Hurt the Poor?, Mother Jones, July 10, 2019](#)

Michael Reich, co-author of the CBO report, admitted that even with the job-loss assessment—which his research disputes—the CBO “nonetheless finds that workers will be better off.” Low-wage jobs have a high turnover rate, with workers moving often from job to job and in and out of the workforce, he said.

Other Media Coverage

- [How Did We Get Here? A Refresher on What’s Happening at the Michigan Supreme Court This Week, WEMU, July 15, 2019](#)

This week, the [Michigan Supreme Court](#) will hear arguments on a debate that started during a contentious and busy lame duck session last year. Whether or not the state’s highest court will actually step in with a ruling remains to be seen.

- [Resources for Documenting and Acting Against a Problematic Work Environment, Barista Magazine, July 10, 2019](#)

If employees face harassment or discrimination, ROC United is one of the sources that they can look at. One of the first steps should be documenting the problematic behavior—a detailed record will be an important tool going forward. Another initial step to take is to review federal and state laws for more information on what constitutes violations of law, and what your options are to act.

- [Car Wash Workers Rally, Demand to be Paid New York’s Minimum Wage, NY1, July 10, 2019](#)

Last month, the legislature passed a bill guaranteeing car wash workers the minimum wage in the city and in its immediate suburbs. But Gov. Andrew Cuomo has not yet committed to signing the bill, though the sponsors say they've had no indication he will veto.

- [Advocates Report ICE Raid at a D.C. Indian Restaurant, Washington City Paper, July 10, 2019](#)

National nonprofit organizations, including ROC United, that advocate for immigrants in the U.S. posted an alert on their website that said a Columbia Heights Indian restaurant was raided by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and that several Hindi speaking employees were taken to the Montgomery County jail in Maryland.

- [New State Wage Theft Law Sheds Light on Local Employees, Minnesota Daily, July 9, 2019](#)

As a new state law tackling wage theft goes into effect, local employees and officials are speaking out about the issue. The law, effective July 1, requires employers to keep and provide more records documenting a person's employment.

7/02 - 7/08

Placed by ROC United

- [Emeryville Debates Whether \\$16.30 Minimum Wage Should Apply to Small Businesses, ABC 7 News, July 8, 2019](#)

ROC United's Saru Jayaraman challenged the city council to talk about tax incentives for employers, rather than talking about cutting workers' wages.

- [Emeryville Showdown Looms Over Nation's Highest Minimum Wage, San Francisco Chronicle, July 8, 2019](#)

ROC United's Maria Moreno said that allowing the city council to stop the minimum wage increase for restaurant tipped workers will send a message that employers "can pay them less money than they are worth just because they make tips."

- [Should Massachusetts Restaurants be Required to Pay Tipped Employees the Full Minimum Wage by 2027? The Boston Globe, July 6, 2019](#)

Marie Billiel, a restaurant worker and ROC United member, said in an argument op-ed piece that people in the state have a moral obligation to protect workers and eliminate systems that keep them impoverished and vulnerable.

- [**A \\$15 Federal Minimum Wage Won't Cost Americans Jobs, New Study Says, Vox, July 2, 2019**](#)

Doubling the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2024 would boost incomes for the poorest households in rural counties, according to a study by the Institute for Research on Labor and Employment. It also found no evidence that wage hike would lead to significant job losses or fewer work opportunities — something big business groups often warn about.

Other Media Coverage

- [**Minimum Wage Rising in these States, Cities, Fox Business News, July 2, 2019**](#)

Last Monday marked the start of a new fiscal year for many state and city governments, ushering in a number of minimum wage increases across the country, including New Jersey, Oregon, Minneapolis (MN), Washington, D.C., Chicago (IL) and California.

- [**Labor Unions You Can Join Today, Barista Magazine, July 5, 2019**](#)

Here's a breakdown of several labor unions that defends workers' rights and help them start their own union. While the ROC United is not officially a union, the nonprofit organization operates very much like one.

- [**Labor Groups Renew Push for Quick \\$15 Chicago Minimum Wage, Crain's Chicago Business, July 2, 2019**](#)

On a day when the city's minimum wage hit \$13 an hour, progressives call on Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot to ensure a \$15 one by 2021.

- [**Tip Your Delivery Worker in Cash, Not Via an App, Quartz, July 8, 2019**](#)

DoorDash came under fire earlier this year for using customer tips to subsidize driver pay. The startup delivery service promises workers, which it calls Dashers,

a “guaranteed minimum” payment on each order. It counts customer tips toward that minimum, rather than on top of it.

6/25 - 7/01

Placed by ROC United

- [Growing Push to Raise the Minimum Wage for Tipped Workers, Fox News Boston, July 1, 2019](#)

Emma Ruff, a Boston-area tipped server and member of ROC United, said that it is necessary for Massachusetts to have a single \$15 minimum wage because of the unpredictability of tipped workers’ income. Her livelihood, her ability to pay rent, her ability to feed herself, she added, are all dependent on the customers.

- [Why are California Grocery Workers Threatening to Strike, Pacific Standard, June 27, 2019](#)

Labor leaders want higher pay and better health care for the thousands of unionized employees who work at Ralphs (whose parent company is Kroger) and Albertsons, which owns Vons and Pavilions—stores that make up about one-fifth of the food retailers in the state. Around 46,000 unionized workers staff the stores in question—most of them clerks and meat cutters—say they were offered a wage increase of less than 1 percent this year.

- [Chicago Workers Deserve \\$15 Now, Chicago Sun-Times \(The Ben Joravsky Show, starting at 1:24\), June 25, 2019](#)

ROC Chicago’s Nataki Rhodes appeared on a radio show last week, discussing why hardworking families could no longer wait for another five years to earn a living wage. She added that One Fair Wage through the Raise Chicago Ordinance is needed now to increase the city’s minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2021.

- [The Classist, Sexist, Reasons Critic Keep Latching Onto Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez’s Service Background, Eater, June 25, 2019](#)

Any mention of Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez in the news must be accompanied by a flurry of responses from detractors hurling “bartending” epithet. ROC President Saru Jayaraman said: “Service workers are seen as not professional; [they’re] disposable workers, basically slave labor.”

Other Media Coverage

- [**New Laws Take Effect July 1 in DC, Maryland and Virginia, Fox 5 DC, July 1, 2019**](#)

On July 1, in the District, the hourly minimum wage will rise to \$14, and tipped workers will make at least \$4.45 an hour. While in Maryland, schools will be prohibited from entering into nondisclosure agreements involving sexual misconduct by school employees, and a new measure in Virginia ends the suspension of driver’s licenses of people with unpaid court debt.

- [**Opinion: Give Pennsylvania Workers the Wages they Deserve, PennLive.com, June 30, 2019**](#)

As PA legislators announced a \$34 billion state budget deal without a highly anticipated minimum wage hike, a diverse coalition of low wage workers, labor unionists, students, faith-based leaders, and concerned residents vowed to continue to fight for the thousands of workers and families whose life chances are threatened by low wages and high rent.

- [**Most Common Job in Mississippi Pays an Average of \\$9.42 an Hour. “It’s Like You’re Stagnated,” Sun Herald, June 28, 2019**](#)

Carolyn Ward and Josef Drones are co-workers at the west Jackson Dollar General, bordering a neighborhood where nearly half of the people live in poverty. They earn \$8 and \$8.50-an-hour, respectively, greeting shoppers, stocking goods and working the cash register. They’re two of Mississippi’s roughly 42,000 cashiers, the single most common job in the state, outnumbering teachers, police officers, registered nurses and the population of Meridian, the state’s 6th largest city.

- [**Where the 2020 Candidates Stand on Raising the Federal Minimum Wage, Vox, June 26, 2019**](#)

The following 2020 candidates expressed support of Raising the Wage Act includes Amy Klobuchar, John Hickenlooper, Elizabeth Warren, Beto O'Rourke, Julian Castro, and Kamala Harris; plus Bernie Sanders, Joe Biden, Kirsten Gillibrand, Pete Buttigieg, Marianne Williamson, Tulsi Gabbard, Eric Swalwell, Cory Booker, Seth Moulton, Tim Ryan, Mike Gravel, John Delaney, and Steve Bullock.

6/18 - 6/24

Placed by ROC United

- [Mpls. Moves to Target Wage Theft, Star Tribune, June 22, 2019](#)

Minneapolis Council Members Linea Palmisano, Steve Fletcher and Phillippe Cunningham introduced a proposal Friday that would require employers to put all pay agreements in writing and provide regular written or electronic earnings statements to workers for transparency.

- [Column: Remember This Tip — Employ the 20 Percent Rule With Your Check, The Berkshire Eagle, June 22, 2019](#)

During a rally by restaurant workers outside the Statehouse last Tuesday, Marie Billiel asserted: "Every day, it felt like I was leered at, whistled at, had comments made about my body. I learned that if I reported it, they would retaliate, and the way they retaliated had a direct impact on my income because my only true income was my tips."

- [1.5 Michigan Workers Would Benefit from \\$15 Minimum Wage Bill Teed Up in U.S. House, Michigan Advance, June 21, 2019](#)

If Congress ultimately boosts the minimum wage to \$15 per hour, 1.5 million workers in Michigan — one-third of the state's workforce — would see a pay increase, according to an analysis from Oxfam.

- [Department of Consumers and Workers Protection, ROC United to Educate Restaurant Workers, Harlem World Magazine, June 21, 2019](#)

The education includes paid safe and sick leave and minimum wage. Teams from DCWP and ROC-NY will conduct a series of outreach events this summer in five boroughs of New York City, starting on June 24.

- [Time for a Raise for New York Car Wash Workers, Truthout, June 18, 2019](#)

ROC NY is excited that car wash workers in the NYC area have won One Fair Wage. “When any worker moves forward we all move forward,” said Serena Thomas a worker organizer for ROC United. “But there are still tipped workers, most of whom are women, in the restaurant industry and nail salon industry that are subject to the subminimum wage.”

- [Tipped Workers in Mass. Pushing for Bump in Minimum Wage, Telegram, June 18, 2019](#)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen and Rep. Tricia Farly-Bouvier, who filed bills (S 1082/H 1617) that would gradually equalize the two different minimum wages, gathered with about a dozen restaurant employees and activists to argue that a lower pay rate for tipped employees exposes workers to financial instability, sexual harassment and other concerns.

- [Tipped Workers Press for ‘One Fair’ Minimum Wage, WBUR, June 19, 2019](#)

Eliminating the separate, lower minimum wage for tipped employees would help workers achieve greater financial stability and reduce exposure to harassment, advocates said Tuesday.

Other Media Coverage

- [Will Raising and Abolishing Tips Fix the Restaurant Industry? Ozy.com, June 21, 2019](#)

Anyone who’s ever waited tables already knows that restaurant staff rank among the lowest-paid workers in the country. Tipped workers earn a minimum wage of \$2.13 — which hasn’t budged since 1991. Nearly 9 out of 10 don’t receive paid sick days or health insurance, according to ROC United, and many restaurants expect cooks to prep for two to three unpaid, off-the-clock hours before their shift.

- [Capitalist Workplaces Set Bosses Up to be Authoritarian Tyrants, Truthout, June 24, 2019](#)

Workers even lack the power to hold their bosses to account for a wide range of abuses at work — *even when those abuses are illegal*, such as sexual harassment and wage theft, according to Elizabeth Anderson, a professor of women’s studies at the University of Michigan. The scale of wage theft — effected by forcing workers to work off the clock, work overtime without extra pay and numerous other scams — is vast.

- [Opinion: Federal Minimum Wage Bump Overdue, The Detroit News, June 19, 2019](#)

The buying power of today’s \$7.25 minimum is lower than the minimum wage of 1968, which would be \$11.96 in 2019 dollars, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Inflation Calculator. The author added that “our economy has grown considerably since 1968, but not the federal minimum wage, which sets the floor under worker pay.”

- [Not So Hospitable — Waiters on Their Restaurant Horror Stories, The Guardian, June 17, 2019](#)

There was outrage when it was suggested a waiter should pay towards the bill of diners who had done a runner. The Guardian asked readers to share their most memorable experiences of working in bars and restaurants.

6/11 - 6/17

Placed by ROC United

- [#OneFairWage: Is it Wrong to Pay Tipped Staff Less Than Others?, BBC News, June 13, 2019](#)

Many cities and states have higher pay requirements than the national rules, but a staggering 43 of the 50 states have different wages in jobs where tipping is customary. This explains, in part, why tipping etiquette feels so alien to visitors to the US.

- [**The Minimum Wage is Not a Difficult Concept, Splinter, June 13, 2019**](#)

The minimum wage desperately needs to be raised to *at least* \$15 an hour—remember, the Fight for \$15 began in 2012, and the cost of living has only risen since then. The minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour isn't enough to afford a two-bedroom apartment in any state in America; there are many states where even \$15 an hour wouldn't cut it.

- [**Aldermen Introduce Plan to Hike Chicago's Minimum Wage to \\$15 in 2021, Chicago Tribune, June 12, 2019**](#)

Under a proposal aldermen introduced to the City Council on Wednesday, Chicago's minimum wage would increase to \$15 in 2021, four years earlier than in the rest of the state. The Raise Chicago (a coalition that includes ROC United) ordinance would increase the city's minimum wage to \$14 on July 1, 2020, and to \$15 on July 1, 2021.

- [**Push for Accelerated Raise to \\$15 Minimum Wage in Chicago, WGN-TV, June 12, 2019**](#)

Workers groups gathered in Chicago to push for an earlier minimum wage raise to \$15 in 2021. Right now, the minimum wage hike is not scheduled until 2024. If enacted, the increase would affect more than 400,000 workers in Chicago.

Other Media Coverage

- [**Longest Time in U.S. History Without Federal Minimum Wage, CNN, June 16, 2019**](#)

On June 16, the United States marked an unfortunate milestone: It will be 3,614 days since the federal minimum wage was last raised in July 2009. It will be the longest period of time between federal minimum wage increases in the nation's history.

- [**Boulder County Leaders Say Localizing Minimum Wage Comes with Risks, Rewards, Daily Camera, June 15, 2019**](#)

A new Colorado law that allows municipalities to increase minimum wage within their jurisdictions beyond the state-mandated level is mostly generating a positive but cautious vibe among business and community leaders in Boulder County.

- [Meal Surcharge at Tappo is Different Approach to Bolstering Kitchen Pay, The Buffalo News, June 15, 2019](#)

At Tappo, the Italian-American restaurant on Buffalo's Ellicott Street, management is trying something new: asking customers to join the business in addressing the inequity. There's been a 50-cent surcharge on every meal and matched by 50 cents from the business. The resulting \$1 per meal is pooled, then split each week among kitchen workers.

- [Opinion: How 'One Fair Minimum Wage' Would Reduce Harassment in PA, The Morning Call, June 14, 2019](#)

The restaurant industry is the single largest source of sexual harassment claims filed in the United States. This is just one of the many reasons Gov. Tom Wolf is proposing one fair minimum wage for all workers of \$12 per hour starting July 1, with a pathway to \$15 per hour by increasing the hourly wage 50 cents each year until July 2025.

6/4 - 6/10

Placed by ROC United

- [Car Washers Will Receive Salary Increase \(in Spanish\), El Diario NY, June 9, 2019](#)

ROC United has fought hard for tipped workers. Now, the Albany legislature has approved to raise the minimum wage of car wash workers in New York to \$15 per hour by 2020.

- [All Work and No Pay, The Bill Moyers Show, June 4, 2019](#)

This week, Bill speaks with Saru Jayaraman, co-founder of the Restaurant Opportunities Centers United, about the group's fight for better wages and working conditions for America's 10 million restaurant workers.

Other Media Coverage

- [**Cleaning Up Car Washes: Albany Steps Up to Provide an Automatic Pay Raise \(Editorial\), NY Daily News, June 7, 2019**](#)

After years of car wash workers -- like restaurant workers -- being exploited by their bosses, a bill has passed requiring they be paid the minimum wage. Gov. Cuomo, a lover of classic autos that are clean, should sign it into law.

- [**Workers with Disabilities are Making Cents Per Hour — and It’s Legal, Truthout, June 7, 2019**](#)

Subminimum wages not only unjustly impact workers with disabilities — they also have an effect on total wages for all workers in a labor market. When labor’s costs are driven down, the wages of all workers are decreased and businesses yield higher profits.

- [**Sanders Calls on McConnell to Put \\$15 Minimum Wage Bill to Senate Vote, Vermont Business Magazine, June 6, 2019**](#)

In a letter sent to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senator Bernie Sanders noted that corporations like Amazon and Disney had already conceded to popular pressure and now provide their workers with a minimum wage of \$15 an hour. Sanders called for the Raise the Wage Act to be brought to the floor of the Senate for an immediate vote.

- [**Is 2019 the Year PA Raises its Minimum Wage? The ‘Good Economy’ Might Make That Possible, Pennlive.com, June 4, 2019**](#)

Every time a minimum wage increase has been proposed, Republican lawmakers have refused to consider it, cautioning that changing Pennsylvania’s minimum wage will be detrimental to business owners. But this year, legislators appear to be softening on the issue.

- [**The Fast-food Industry’s Dismal Labor Practices Are Just the Tip of the Iceberg, The Washington Post, June 4, 2019**](#)

The protests make clear that the problems animating #MeToo and the Fight for \$15 movements are critical issues in American life, ones that will help define the political priorities in 2020 and beyond. However, it is dangerous to focus disproportionately on fast-food companies.

5/21 - 6/3 — SPECIAL EDITION

Last week served as a milestone for ROC United in raising the profile of the organization and the One Fair Wage campaign. In New York, ROC hosted three major events: a “server for an hour” with Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Rep. Michael Blake, and a dinner event with former State Secretary Hillary Clinton.

With over a hundred coverage in major news platforms in New York and across the country, ROC United has gained significant momentum and media presence. Here are some of the media highlights:

“Server for an Hour” with Rep. Ocasio-Cortez:

[Ocasio-Cortez Waits Table to Raise Awareness for Increasing Minimum Wage, CNN, June 1, 2019](#)

The New York Democrat — and former bartender — waited tables Friday afternoon to raise awareness for Democrats' fight to increase the national minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

[Ocasio-Cortez: \\$2.13 Tipped Minimum Wage is ‘Indentured Servitude, The Guardian \(U.S. Edition\), June 1, 2019](#)

Dressed in an apron and standing behind the bar of The Queensboro restaurant in Jackson Heights, Ocasio-Cortez told cheering workers and small business owners the current rate was “unacceptable.”

[Ocasio-Cortez Asks to End Economic Despair Face by Subminimum Workers \(In Spanish\), El Diario, June 1, 2019](#)

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez made a passionate defense of the need for a minimum wage for tipped workers to give them dignity to the work that is done.

[**Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Returns to Bartending in Support of a \\$15 Minimum Wage, Vox, June 1, 2019**](#)

New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez continued her advocacy for an increase to the federal minimum wage Friday night by tending bar and serving pizzas at a New York City restaurant.

[**Ocasio-Cortez Mixes Drinks to Push a Minimum Wage Hike, The Associated Press, May 31, 2019**](#)

The Democrat took orders and mixed margaritas at The Queensboro restaurant, in the Jackson Heights section of Queens, for about half an hour, exhibiting skills she learned from four years working in the food industry.

[**Rep. Ocasio-Cortez Returns to Bartending to Promote Fair Wages, Reuters, May 31, 2019**](#)

U.S. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez took lunch orders, served pizza and rocked the cocktail shaker on Friday to promote increased wages for restaurant servers and other tipped workers.

[**AOC Waits Tables for Tipped Workers, The Young Turks \(Youtube Video\), May 31, 2019**](#)

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez was on centerstage in a 'Server For An Hour' event on Friday, where she waited tables and tended bar to raise awareness for the fight to raise tipped workers' incredibly low minimum wage.

[**Ocasio-Cortez Went Back to Bartending. Slogans Were Served, The New York Times, May 31, 2019**](#)

The congresswoman, who has often cited her former restaurant job to emphasize her roots, mounted a classic political stunt to promote higher pay for tipped-wage workers.

[**AOC Mixes Drinks in Queens in Show of Support for Restaurant Workers, WNYC \(Radio\), May 31, 2019**](#)

Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's critics on social media often tell the freshman Congresswoman — and former restaurant worker — to go back to bartending. And so she did early Friday evening, at Queensboro Restaurant in Jackson Heights.

[**Ocasio-Cortez Gets Back Behind the Bar to Mix it Up for a Cause Close to Her Heart, NBC News, May 31, 2019**](#)

The freshman lawmaker said she was worried that she'd lost her touch with the cocktail shaker. But she hadn't.

[**Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Bartends, Pushes to Increase Wages for Tipped Workers \(Video\), WNBC, May 31, 2019**](#)

While bartending in Queens, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez pushed for the Raise the Wage Act, abolishing below-minimum wages for tipped workers.

[**AOC Bartends in Queens in Support of One Fair Wage for Tipped Workers, AM New York, May 31, 2019**](#)

The return to her roots at The Queensboro, in Jackson Heights, was to bring attention to One Fair Wage, an effort to raise the federal minimum wage for tipped workers. More than 50 servers, bartenders, massage therapists and other hourly employees attended the private event.

[**Ocasio-Cortez Bartends at Pricey Queens Eatery for an Hour in Support of Federal Wage Hike for Tipped Workers, NY Daily News, May 31, 2019**](#)

The location for the boozy event — The Queensboro in Jackson Heights — doesn't exactly cater to Ocasio-Cortez's working class constituents. The one-year-old gastro pub charges a whopping \$20 for a plate of rigatoni with ragu, \$13 for spring pea salad and a princely \$16 for avocado toast.

[**Ocasio Returns to Serve Drinks in New York to Ask a Fair Pay for Waiters \(In Spanish\), EFE Press Agency, May 31, 2019**](#)

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez returned Friday to serve drinks in a restaurant in the Queens borough of New York for a legislative initiative to raise the minimum

wage in the United States and for waiters and other service workers who receive tips in New York.

[Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Bartends in Queens to Push for Higher Minimum Wage, WABC 7 News, May 31, 2019](#)

Friday afternoon, Ocasio-Cortez mixed drinks at a bar in Jackson Heights, Queens. It was part of her effort to push for a law to raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

[AOC Returns to Bartending Roots at Fundraiser, PIX11 News, May 31, 2019](#)

The Democrat said she wanted to draw attention to the One Fair Wage Act, a bill that would raise the minimum wage \$15 an hour.

[Ocasio-Cortez Advocates for Tipped Workers to Get \\$15 Minimum Wage by Stepping Into Her Old Job, NY1 News, May 31, 2019](#)

Before she became the darling of the progressive wing of the Democratic Party, Ocasio-Cortez was slinging beer and cocktails at a place like The Queensboro, earning a minimum wage of less than \$3 an hour and relying on tips to make ends-meet.

[Ocasio-Cortez Serves up Food, Drinks in Support of Raising Minimum Wage, News12, May 31, 2019](#)

The congresswoman said people who make a tip-based living are more likely to have to endure sexual harassment out of worry of losing tips. She also says they may have to take overnight shifts that put their safety at risk.

[Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Poured Drinks and Waited Tables at a Queens Restaurant to Promote a Minimum Wage Law, Business Insider, May 31, 2019](#)

Ocasio-Cortez is attempting to build support for the federal Raise the Wage Act, which would double the minimum wage by 2024, as well as New York State's One Fair Wage, which would mandate that tipped workers are paid at least the minimum wage.

[**AOC Goes Back to Her Bartending Roots -- For a Good Cause, Refinery29, May 31, 2019**](#)

AOC's life has changed drastically since she won her congressional primary last year, but on Friday the former bartender and server made it clear that she still knows her way around a restaurant — especially when it's for a good cause.

[**AOC Returning to Her Bartending to Her Roots to Advocate for Raising Minimum Wage for Restaurant Employees and Other Tipped Workers, NY Daily News, May 28, 2019**](#)

AOC will be waiting tables once again. The congresswoman is returning to her restaurant roots this week to show support for the federal Raise the Wage Act and abolishing below-minimum wage for tipped workers in the Empire State..

“Server for an Hour” with Rep. Michael Blake:

[**Blake, Congressional Candidate, Backs One Fair Wage at Edge of District, The Norwood News, May 29, 2019**](#)

Assemblyman Michael Blake is backing a state bill that would mandate the restaurant industry establish a living wage for restaurant workers that predominantly rely on customer tips to make ends meet. The bill has stalled in the Albany Legislature despite a pledge from Governor Andrew Cuomo to see look into it.

[**Dishes and Dissent: Restaurants Workers and Advocates Push for One Fair Wage, The Bronx Free Press, May 30, 2019**](#)

Patrons at The Bronx Drafthouse near Yankee Stadium had a surprising server on Tuesday afternoon, as State Assemblymember Michael Blake spent time waiting on customers to show support for tipped workers in their fight to eliminate the subminimum wage.

Dinner Event with Secretary Hillary Clinton:

[Hillary Clinton Speaks to Raise Wages for Tipped Workers in New York, El Diario New York, May 30, 2019](#)

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has asked Governor Andrew Cuomo to approve a full minimum wage for workers who receive tips.

[On the Line, The Bronx Free Press, May 30, 2019](#)

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton joined ROC United at a dinner event at COLORS Restaurant on Wednesday, May 29, where she announced her support for One Fair Wage. She said many people in the country are unaware that restaurant workers are paid less than minimum wage.

5/14 - 5/20

Placed by ROC United

- [After Kansas Buffalo Wild Wings Sued for Discrimination, a Lesson on Tipping While Black, The Kansas City Star, May 24, 2019](#)

Studies have shown that on average, African Americans and other people of color tend to tip less than white customers. Economic and educational inequality, institutionalized racism in the restaurant industry and plain old discrimination are among the many reasons black people tip a little less than whites on average.

- [Burger King Wants You to 'Feel Your Way.' But What About its Own Employees, EATER, May 23, 2019](#)

Restaurant industry is home to higher rates of mental health issues: Tipped workers are at greater risk for depression, sleep problems, and stress, compared to workers in non-tipped industries, and food service workers have among the highest rates of self-reported alcohol and drug abuse.

- [Jane Fonda, Amy Schumer and Amy Poehler Join Advocates in Calling on Gov. Cuomo to Back Minimum Wage Increase for Tipped Workers, New York Daily News, May 22, 2019](#)

Fonda, Schumer and Poehler are joining forces with other A-listers and advocates in calling on the governor get behind a push to pay tipped workers a full minimum wage. These celebrities believe it would even the economic playing field for tipped workers, who are predominantly women and people of color, and make waitresses less vulnerable to sexual harassment.

5/21 - 5/27

Placed by ROC United

- [California's Finest Restaurants Pay Workers of Color \\$6 per Hour Less Than White Workers, Mother Jones, May 18, 2019](#)

As the restaurant industry continues to grow, its non-white workers continue to be underrepresented in higher paying positions. This trend is all too apparent in California, where restaurants employ nearly 1.6 million workers, or just over 9 percent of the state's workforce.

- [In-N-Out Burger Managers' Salaries 'Eons Above' Competitors: How Popular Fast Food Chains Compare, Fox Business, May 17, 2018](#)

If you're hoping to find a career in the fast food industry, especially in management roles, In-N-Out — the burger giant concentrated in the West Coast — was “the best chain” in terms of wages and benefits in 2017, according to ROC United's Saru Jayaraman.

- [Diners Not Pleased With Hidden Surcharge on Restaurant Bill, The Epoch Times, May 16, 2019](#)

A surcharge for more than \$3 on the bill leaves many diners unhappy. The extra charge is supposed to help offset the cost of additional expenses brought on by the recent minimum wage increase. Jessica Yanez of ROC United D.C. said that one solution is to eliminate the two-tiered minimum wage because “it is not only the money, but it is also the perverse work conditions that come from working for tips.”

- [New Report: Racial Segregation, Biases Deny Living Wages to Bay Area Restaurant Workers, KQED, May 15, 2019](#)

Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf and Councilmember Nikki Fortunato Bas are calling for citywide incentives for restaurant owners who undergo a thorough racial equity training process, after a new ROC United report outlined the severity and impact of racial segregation in Bay Area restaurants.

- [Bay Area Restaurants Most Segregated by Race in the United States, KCBS Radio, May 14, 2019](#)

A new ROC United report finds that the Bay Area has the highest rates of occupational segregation in terms of race in the restaurant industry in the United States. But Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf wants to move more workers from the so-called “back of the house” to the front, offer restaurants tax breaks and other incentives to diversify their hiring, and help to promote those restaurants.

Other Media Coverage

- [How Mississippi’s Abundant Low-Wage Workers Earn Less Today Than 50 Years Ago, Daily Journal, May 20, 2019](#)

The argument in favor of increasing wages can help lift workers out of poverty while detractors warn that forcing employers to pay workers more will lead to job losses, pushing families deeper into poverty. This debate is particularly consequential in Mississippi, where more families live in poverty than any other state and a significant portion of all jobs are low-wage.

- [Why Democrats Can’t Figure Out How to Raise the Minimum Wage, CNN, May 19, 2019](#)

House Democrats started the process of passing a bill that would gradually raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour. But despite the rhetoric and promises in 2018 and the importance of economic inequality as a Democratic issue on the 2020 campaign trail, the Democratic Party is split.

- [Idaho Group Backs Initiative to Hike Minimum Wage, Idaho State Journal, May 14, 2019](#)

Idaho's minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour is the same amount set by the federal government, which has not changed in nearly a decade. But one Boise-based group, Idahoans for a Fair Wage, aims to do what the Legislature has not and has a plan to increase the state's minimum wage to \$12 per hour over a four-year period.

- [Class-Action Suit Filed for Ex-Workers Against Area Restaurant Chain, Athens News West Virginia, May 12, 2019](#)

A class-action lawsuit has been filed on behalf of several former employees at the Bob Evans restaurants in Athens and Parkersburg, West Virginia, alleging that the restaurant chain has violated the Fair Labor Standards Act and other state and federal laws that concern wages.

5/07 - 5/13

Placed by ROC United

- [City Visions: What's it Like for Women in the Restaurant Industry? KAWL Radio, May 12, 2019](#)

Historically, restaurants can be challenging workplaces for women — with low pay that relies on tips, problems with sexual harassment, and a lack of access to capital for women trying to start their own businesses. Saru Jayaraman talked about how to resolve these issues and create profitable careers for women in the restaurant industry.

- [How #MeToo Is Changing the Restaurant Industry, Uptown Radio, May 10, 2019](#)

ROC United's Saru Jayaraman and Serena Thomas shed light on how the #MeToo movement has brought changes to the food industry, most particularly when some celebrity chefs have been accused of sexual harassment and, in some cases, have been forced out of their businesses.

- [Women are Filing More Harassment Claims in the #MeToo Era. They're also Facing More Retaliation, Vox.com, May 9, 2019](#)

Despite the obstacles to reporting harassment, the numbers show that more people are doing it. But while it is a useful marker for measuring the magnitude of #MeToo, complaints registered with EEOC or elsewhere, whether at a state or local agency or internally with an employer, rose as well.

- [**Bonchon Uptown Workers Say They Haven't Been Totally Repaid After Wage Theft, City Pages, May 8, 2019**](#)

Some workers say Bonchon didn't pay the servers everything they were owed, adding that the owners kept 5 percent of those tips for "credit card processing fees." On top of that, the workers contend Bonchon has been paying workers below the minimum wage.

Other Media Coverage

- [**Wisconsin Could Become First State to Exempt Waiters, Other Workers' Tip Income from Taxes, WPR, May 10, 2019**](#)

Wisconsin could become the first state to exempt waiters, waitresses and other workers' money from cash tips on their taxes. A measure in the state Legislature would make it legal for people like servers, valets, golf caddies and other workers who are usually tipped to not report the money on their state income taxes.

- [**Graydon Carter Hit with Wage Lawsuit at Waverly Inn, Eater NY, May 10, 2019**](#)

A former server at the exclusive Waverly Inn is suing renowned owner Graydon Carter and his partners for alleged wage theft, claiming he was forced to perform non-service work like folding napkins at the lower tipped minimum wage rate. The server is trying to make the suit a class action.

- [**Small Businesses React to Minimum Wage Bill as It Heads to the Senate, Fox 61, May 9, 2019**](#)

The Connecticut House of Representatives passed a bill to increase the state's minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2023. The wage increase would be incremental. However, the bill would freeze wages for tipped workers such as servers and bartenders.

- [Opinion: All Pennsylvanians Deserve a Fair Workweek, Philly.com, May 8, 2019](#)

Tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians face many instabilities at home: putting food on the table, paying their rent on time, or providing quality care for children. These are some of the reasons why a Fair Workweek legislation in Pennsylvania is needed.

4/30 - 5/06

Placed by ROC United

- [The Service Industry Can be Grueling. The Paper Napkin Wants to Channel that Frustration into Something Positive, Boston.com, May 2, 2019](#)

On May 9, the second issue of The Paper Napkin, dedicating its cover story to Mea Johnson, lead organizer at the Restaurant Opportunities Center (ROC) of Boston, will be released with more recipes, writing, and artwork by and for service industry workers.

- [May Day Demands Respect for Immigrants \(Un Primero de Mayo para Pedir Respeto para Los Inmigrantes, in Spanish\), El Diario La Prensa, May 1, 2019](#)

Taría Vines, a tipped worker from the Bronx, said that what leads her to participate in International Workers Day is the fair salary for people who work in restaurants, beauty salons and manicures as well as quality free education and a fair contract for CUNY students and teachers, respectively.

- [Labor Apps Won't Save Us, But Maybe Nothing Will, Splinter News, May 1, 2019](#)

Tech and Apps will not fix the labor movement. But there are some interesting and promising examples of technological platforms that could help mitigate the broadly terrible circumstances workers are up against.

- [7 Groups Chased Council Members Around City Hall to Make a Plea for More Labor Enforcement Funding, Philly.com, April 30, 2019](#)

Last week, representatives from at least seven advocacy groups came together in Philadelphia to lobby City Council for more money for enforcement of the city's worker protection laws. "It's time for the city to put their money where their mouth is," said Calvin Okunoye, of Restaurant Opportunities Center of Philadelphia.

Other Media Coverage

- [Presidential Candidate Gillibrand Hosts Roundtable on Organized Labor, Las Vegas Review-Journal, May 6, 2019](#)

For about 20 minutes, U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand took questions about the minimum wage, institutional racism and the path toward universal health care, hitting all the progressive high notes along the way.

- [Here's Where All the 2020 Presidential Candidates Stand on Key Workplace Issues — From Paid Family Leave to Minimum Wage, Money.com, May 3, 2019](#)

Democratic presidential hopefuls are flocking to picket lines. Federal \$15 minimum wage is a platform for more than a dozen candidates. Equal pay is prominent, and so is the right to organize.

- [Opinion: Pass the Raise the Wage Act and Save Our Iowa Towns, Des Moines Register, May 1, 2019](#)

Iowa's minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour is a scandal. That's why, according to the author, she's so excited to see a strong minimum wage bill moving in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Raise the Wage Act would lift the minimum wage in all states to \$15 an hour, and it already has over 200 co-sponsors.

- [Blood From a Stone? Twin Cities Business Magazine, May 1, 2019](#)

People need a living wage, and society doesn't function effectively with the kind of wage disparities that exist now, the author said. But that doesn't mean businesses won't react to a steadily rising cost structure — and the reaction is most expected in the restaurant business.

- [Dispelling Myths About Minimum Wage Hike, Times Leader, April 30, 2019](#)

The facts show that raising the wage to \$12 and eventually to \$15 per hour is not only the right thing to do for working families, but it's the smart thing for our area's struggling economy.

4/23 - 4/29

Placed by ROC United

- [**Most Restaurant Workers Don't Earn Enough to Feed Their Own Families, Truthout, April 29, 2019**](#)

ROC United is working overtime to counter misinformation being pushed by astroturf groups like the Restaurant Workers of America, as the majority of tipped restaurant workers continue to face economic insecurity.

- [**Why Don't Restaurants Unionize? New Food Economy, April 29, 2019**](#)

According to Fekkak Mamdouh, co-founder of ROC United, if you ask people who work for Danny Meyer of Union Square Hospitality Group whether they want a union, 75 percent of them would say "no," because they are paid well, they are respected, and there's an HR that takes care of them.

- [**Protests at Tazza D'Oro After the Millvale Coffee Shop Closed Abruptly Last Week and Fired All Four Employees, Pittsburgh City Paper, April 25**](#)

Last Tuesday, Tazza D'oro was supposed to open in Millvale. Instead, it was met with protests from former workers and labor advocates, calling for severance for the fired workers and the owner to step down from store management duties.

- [**Pols Wait Tables to Push for Tipped Workers Bill, Brooklyn Downtown Star, April 24, 2019**](#)

In an effort to highlight the need for tipped workers to receive higher wages, Brooklyn lawmakers on Monday served coffee for an hour at the Williamsburg restaurant Marlow & Sons.

- ['One Fair Wage' Campaign Creates Divide Among Restaurateurs and Advocates, \(Second of a Two-part Series\), NY1, April 24, 2019](#)

Some tipped workers fear One Fair Wage will force service businesses to cut hours and jobs. But Andrew Tarlow, who owns several popular Brooklyn restaurants, supports One Fair Wage, reasoning that if all restaurant owners pay higher salaries, they could all raise menu prices together.

- [NY Restaurants Forced to Cut Staff Blame Minimum Wage Act \(First of a Two-part Series\), NY1, April 23, 2019](#)

While there's a new push to raise the wages of all tipped employees in New York State, a report says the proposal not only faces opposition from restaurants but some workers oppose it, too.

- [Protest Planned Over Closing of Tazza D'oro Coffee Shop, Pittsburgh Business Times, April 23, 2019](#)

The prospect of reopening Tazza D'oro is part of what motivated the protest against the coffee shop, according to leadership of the Restaurant Opportunity Centers United, working with former employees of Tazza D'oro, which also operates locations in Highland Park and on the campus of Carnegie Mellon University.

- [BK Lawmakers Push and Get Pushback on Fair Wage Legislation, Kings County Politics, April 23, 2019](#)

The ongoing "fair wages for all" debate hit a battle zone Monday after U.S. Rep. Nydia Velazquez alongside Assembly members Jo Anne Simon, Tremaine Wright and Felix Ortiz, and State Senator Julia Salazar served coffee for an hour, shadowing food service workers to shed light on the federal Raise the Wage Act.

- [Restaurants are Trying to Fix a Broken System By Banning Tips, BYU Radio, April 23, 2019](#)

In the US, diners are expected to tip their server at a sit-down restaurant. But abroad, that's not the case in most places. That is why a movement wants to get rid of tipping, saying it encourages discrimination or it's just antiquated.

Other Media Coverage

- [Presidential Hopefuls are Promising Workers a \\$15 Minimum Wage, Vox, April 29, 2019](#)

During a forum with union workers last weekend, six Democratic 2020 presidential hopefuls publicly endorsed the idea of raising the federal minimum wage, including One Fair Wage for tipped workers, pushing the issue to the forefront of the presidential primary race.

- [On Minimum Wage, What We Know is That We Don't Know, VTDigger, April 29, 2019](#)

Andy Sebranek, a Burlington restaurant worker, testified to the House General Affairs Committee in February that raising the minimum wage for tipped restaurant workers would enable more young people to move to Vermont or to stay in Vermont.

- [Initiative to Raise Idaho Minimum Wage Approved, The Reader, April 25, 2019](#)

The Idaho Attorney General's office has approved a ballot initiative, which would increase Idaho's current \$7.25 per hour minimum wage to \$8.75 on June 1, 2021, to \$9.75 a year later, to \$10.75 the year after and to \$12 an hour on June 1, 2024.

4/16 - 4/22

Placed by ROC United

- [Actress Erika Alexander, Rep. Velazquez, Other Officials Will Wait Tables in Brooklyn to Push to End Lower Wages for Tipped Workers, NY Daily News, April 22, 2019](#)

On Monday morning, actress Erika Alexander, Rep. Nydia Velazquez and several state lawmakers donned aprons and took a few orders at Marlow & Sons

restaurant, in Brooklyn, NY, to show support for the federal Raise the Wage Act and abolishing below-minimum wages for tipped workers.

- [**The Pot Washers, BBC News, April 17, 2019**](#)

In restaurants, most customers focus on the chefs. But the soggy, filthy and exhausting jobs of dishwashers and staff at the back of the house — which restaurants won't normally function without them — are rarely acknowledged.

- [**Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley Introduces 'BE HEARD' Act to Prevent Harassment in the Workplace, LA Sentinel, April 17, 2019**](#)

Congresswoman Pressley said that the bill will be one step closer to making toxic workplace harassment and discrimination a dark memory of the past, adding that it is time to push the conversations and policies so that those who have been suffering in silence feel seen and represented in America's democracy.

Other Media Coverage

- [**Class Action Filed Against Outback Steakhouse for Allegedly Underpaying Servers, Law.com, April 22, 2019**](#)

A prospective class action lawsuit that affects hundreds of servers at nine Outback Steakhouse restaurants in Connecticut claims the chain did not pay employees the full minimum wage for performing nonservice duties.

- [**Is it Really Possible to Reduce Employee Turnover in a Restaurant?, FSR Magazine, April 22, 2019**](#)

According to a study conducted in 2017, a whopping 72 percent of all restaurant workers left their jobs compared to a 47 percent rate across all industries.

- [**Legislation Aims to Shed Light on Delivery App Tipping Practices, NY Daily News, April 17, 2019**](#)

Bronx Councilman Ritchie Torres is drafting a bill that would require apps like DoorDash to notify customers if gratuity is paid to delivery workers in addition to their regular wage – or if tips are put toward their base pay.

- [Here's Why There Should Be No More Tipping at Restaurants, Inc.com, April 16, 2019](#)

Tipping in restaurants is fundamentally unfair, arbitrary, and often discriminatory. A few intrepid restaurants and chains are getting rid of it and paying all employees a decent wage instead. Every restaurant should do the same.

- [Restaurants Adding Surcharges to Cover Healthcare Costs, Restaurant Dive, April 16, 2019](#)

As opposed to raising prices, some restaurants have turned instead to fundraising for their employees in need of healthcare. But Saru Jayaraman, co-founder of the Restaurant Opportunities Center United, said that this approach risks reputational damage.

4/9 - 4/15

Placed by ROC United

- [Opinion: Raise Minimum Wage for Tipped Workers, VT Digger, April 14, 2019](#)

A ROC United member in Vermont was in awe when the Senate advanced a bill that would raise the state's minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2024. But while it was a huge first step, the bill has once again left the tipped workers behind.

- [McDonald's Retreat on Fighting Wage Increase Shows the Tide is Turning, In These Times, April 11, 2019](#)

Losing McDonald's as an ally of the National Restaurants Association (NRA) in the fight against minimum wage hikes and paid sick days serves as a "serious blow to the trade group." But the NRA has still described McDonald's a "valued member" of its organization.

- [Why Tipping is Such a Contentious Issue in America \(Video\), Yahoo! Finance, April 10, 2019](#)

After a video on how to save money on tips went viral, ROC United's Saru Jayaraman debunks the myth that New York's restaurant industry begins to plummet after raising the minimum wage.

- [Democrats' Sweeping New Anti-Harassment Bill, Explained, Vox, April 9, 2019](#)

The BE HEARD in the Workplace Act could face an uphill battle in a Republican-controlled Senate. But it's an example of a larger move toward systemic changes that would go beyond deposing a few big-name men, and help the many workers in America whose harassment never makes the news.

- [Clark, Pressley Introduce Bill to Expand Workplace Protections for #MeToo Cases, Boston Globe, April 9, 2019](#)

MA congresswomen introduced a bill that represents the first sweeping federal effort to address the systemic legal and workplace inequities exposed by the viral #MeToo movement — including an ambitious effort to phase out the tipped minimum wage.

Other Media Coverage

- [Lawmakers Could Phase Out Subminimum Wage for Disabled Workers, KTBS News Arkansas \(Video\), April 16, 2019](#)

A new bill in Congress could require fair pay for disabled workers. The purpose of the bill is to give disabled workers a choice to find or even build a job that they want and be rewarded accordingly with a real wage.

- [Why and How 11 Trump States Raised the Minimum Wage, Explained, WHYY, April 16, 2019](#)

Of the 30 states that Republican Donald Trump won in 2016, more than a third have a minimum wage above the federal level. But most of the time, when those 11 reddish states raised the minimum wage, the measures passed through a ballot referendum.

- [Queens of the Kitchen: Women Hold Power Until the Space Becomes a Business, The Guardian, April 11, 2019](#)

When the kitchen becomes a restaurant in America, white faces are the ones that dominate the front of the house. The women of color fall out. Female chefs confront personal and systemic sexism. Women of color who cook inhabit the crossroads. They have unequal access to investment capital.

- [Bill Seeks to Phase Out Subminimum Wage Pay in Illinois by 2024, Watchdog News, April 9, 2019](#)

In Illinois, employers are exempt from paying the subminimum wage to workers — some are paid as little as 40 to 50 cents an hour — who reach certain criteria for disabilities. State legislation seeks to change that.

4/2 - 4/8

Placed by ROC United

- [Restaurant Owners, Servers in New York Divided Over Wages for Tipped Workers, EFE News Service, April 6, 2019](#)

ROC United, which works with restaurant employers nationwide to improve conditions for their workers, is among the supporters of Gov. Cuomo's proposal that is currently stuck in legislative limbo.

- [Employees With Tips Ask Cuomo to Accelerate the Unification of the Minimum Wage \(In Spanish\), El Diario, April 4, 2019](#)

Tipped workers, like Serena Thomas, work two or three jobs and more than 40 hours a week. A new Community Service Society report released Wednesday shows that tipped workers living in New York City face higher levels of hardships than non-tipped workers covered under the full minimum wage.

- [New York Tipped Workers Have High Poverty Rate, Says New Survey \(In Chinese\), Sing Tao Daily News, April 4, 2019](#)

In a press briefing organized by ROC United, the Community Service Society released Wednesday a new survey that reveals tipped workers in New York City are more likely to live in poverty and receive government services, compared to other workers.

- [**Carrots in the Kitchen: Eateries Use Health Care to Lure Staff, Bloomberg Law, April 3, 2019**](#)

Restaurant workers are potentially more vulnerable to safety risks on the job. Insurance for full-time employees is becoming more popular.

- [**New York Groups Call for Closing the Gender Pay Gap \(Video, in Spanish\), Univision, April 2, 2019**](#)

Activists, community leaders and elected officials gathered in front of the New York City Hall to protest against inequality in labor payments. Despite the efforts made in recent years, they said that pay gap remains wide.

Other Media Coverage

- [**Opinion: Minimum Wage to Get Top Court Review, Traverse City Record Eagle, April 6, 2019**](#)

Michigan's minimum wage rose to \$9.45 per hour last week, the same day a new law requiring some employers to offer paid sick leave took effect.

- [**Miami's Airport is Removing Automatic Tips. Restaurant Workers Say Wages Will Plummet, Miami Herald, April 4, 2019**](#)

The Miami-Dade County aviation department is forcing airport restaurants to get rid of automatic gratuities by April 15, citing a 1975 county code that says airport workers can't "solicit a tip."

- [**With Your Tips, Hospitality Workers Will Fight Sexual Violence on Tip Out Day, The New Orleans Advocate, April 2, 2019**](#)

On Tip Out Day (April 7), a wide range of tipped workers pledge to contribute a portion of the day's tips to nonprofits working in sexual violence awareness, response and prevention.

- [**Black Women and Latinas Paid So Poorly, Catching Up is Almost Impossible, NBC News, April 2, 2019**](#)

For at least two groups of American women — black and Latina — the wage gap remains not only very real, but also too large to surmount in an average lifetime.

3/26 - 4/1

- [After Minimum Wage Hike, Many New York Restaurants Cut Workers' Hours \(Video\), Fox 5 News, April 1, 2019](#)

In New York, some restaurant owners say the state's minimum wage increase is hurting their bottom lines. But ROC United's Teo Reyes disagrees by saying the benefits of the increased minimum wage outweigh the drawbacks.

- [Opinion: Spirit of Cesar Chavez Lives On in Fight for Tipped Workers' Wages, City Limits, March 30, 2019](#)

On March 31, as the nation honors Cesar Chavez Day, the unfair working conditions on grape farms in California nearly 55 years ago still resemble those that exist today among tipped workers in New York.

- [Waging War on Wage Theft, Salon.com, March 30, 2019](#)

As state after state raises the minimum wage, companies continue to find ways to cheat hourly workers out of pay they're entitled to — by holding unpaid mandatory off-the-clock meetings, and even requiring employees to continue working after clocking out.

- [Fierce Advocate for Restaurant Workers Wins '2019 Visionary of the Year' Award, San Francisco Chronicle, March 27, 2019](#)

For Saru's efforts to improve working conditions for the restaurant industry, she has received the fifth annual [Visionary of the Year Award](#), an honor that recognizes individuals who use their business savvy to change the world for the better.

- [Jane Fonda on One Fair Wage, WCNY The Capitol Press Room, March 26, 2019](#)

Actress Jane Fonda calls on Gov. Cuomo: “Be a leader on this one. You want to be a progressive leader, so this is the moment to step forward and do this [One Fair Wage], and other states on Northeast will follow our lead.”

Other Media Coverage

- [**New Mexico Adopts First Minimum Wage Increase in a Decade, The Associated Press, April 1, 2019**](#)

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham signed legislation Monday raising the state's minimum wage for the first time in a decade from \$7.50 an hour to \$12 by 2023. The first increase to \$9 an hour goes into effect at the start of 2020.

- [**Minimum Wage, Paid Sick Leave to Take Effect While Under Legal Reviews, The Detroit News, March 28, 2019**](#)

Despite ongoing and legal and judicial reviews, Michigan’s state minimum wage increased last Friday from \$9.25 to \$9.45 per hour, and businesses with more than 50 employees will be required to offer workers one hour of paid medical leave for every 35 hours worked.

- [**Politico: McDonald’s Won’t Lobby Against Minimum Wage, Newsmax, March 26, 2019**](#)

Fast-food giant McDonald's will no longer participate in lobby efforts against minimum wage increases, boosting the likely passage of a House bill introduced by Democrats that would gradually raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour, according to a Politico report.

- [**Unions Step Up Push for \\$15 Minimum Wage in Congress, Washington Examiner, March 26, 2017**](#)

Last Tuesday, labor unions and their allies stepped up their push to get Congress to approve a \$15-an-hour federal minimum wage, up from the current rate of \$7.25, urging rank-and-file members to press their congressmen on the issue.

- [**Opinion: One Fair Wage Means a Better Life for Millions of Working Pennsylvanians, Montgomery News, March 26, 2019**](#)

State Reps. Patty Kim and Chris Rabb say that when the minimum wage in Pennsylvania is raised to \$12 per hour, it should increase annually until it reaches \$15 an hour and tie its raises to the actual cost of food, rent and medicine. They also want to make sure workers don't fall behind and can afford to be customers, growing a stronger economy for everyone.

- [Opinion: NYC Restaurant Jobs Decline for the First Time In a Decade, Crain's New York, March 26, 2019](#)

Last year, according to the columnist, for the first time in more than a decade, the number of restaurant jobs in New York City declines — a sign that minimum wage increase and paid sick leave are moving owners to reduce staff.

3/19 - 3/25

Placed by ROC United

- [Wall of Immigration, Saving The West \(Podcast\), March 25, 2019](#)

Is the border an emergency or not? Is the real emergency one faced by immigrant workers? This podcast featuring Saru Jayaraman seeks to answer these questions not as an immigration debate over the same old arguments but as immigration through the lens of food.

- [What's Happening to the Tipped Minimum Wage?, City&State, March 22, 2019](#)

Gov. Andrew Cuomo may boast New York's \$15 minimum wage, but for some waitresses and servers – and most workers outside of New York City – that paycheck is still out of reach.

- [Opponents of Tipped Wage Bash Online Delivery Platforms, Crain's New York, March 22, 2019](#)

ROC United's recently released report discusses how online ordering and delivery services have encouraged eateries and other businesses to turn employees into independent contractors and to use gratuities to cover workers' pay.

- [Tipped Workers Calling State Leaders to Pass Bill That Increases Minimum Wage \(Video\), Fox 43 Harrisburg, PA, March 21, 2019](#)

Restaurant workers, alongside some PA state leaders, came together on Thursday at the State Capitol in Harrisburg to bring awareness to the One Fair Wage policy. The bill ties into Gov. Tom Wolf's proposal to increase minimum wage to \$15 an hour and allow tipped workers earn a higher pay, plus tips.

- [House Democratic Leaders Work a Cafeteria Shift to Build Support for Minimum Wage Hike, Pennsylvania Capital-Star, March 21, 2019](#)

Rep. Jordan Harris and Rep. Joanna McClinton of Philadelphia — the Democratic whip and caucus chair, respectively — put on aprons to serve food in Capitol's cafeteria Thursday morning to show solidarity with state food service workers.

- [Minimum Wage Hike Not "Full Victory" for Tipped Workers, NPR Illinois, March 21, 2019](#)

Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker recently signed into law an increase to the state's minimum wage. But restaurant servers, bartenders and other workers who depend on tips, say it's not a full victory.

- [New York's Tipped Workers Want Minimum Wage Increase, New York Daily News, March 19, 2019](#)

Advocates, restaurant owners and tipped employees joined Albany lawmakers, including Assemblywoman Ellen Jaffee, in calling for an end to the subminimum wage.

- [Lawmakers, Workers Push for Higher Tipped Worker Wage, Spectrum News, March 19, 2019](#)

A bill that would increase the minimum wage for tipped workers to the full minimum wage is being pushed for in the final budget agreement by restaurant workers and state lawmakers who back the legislation.

- [Lawmakers Renew Call for Higher Minimum Wage for Tipped Workers, Politico, March 19, 2019](#)

Lawmakers are renewing their push for higher wages for tipped workers in New York state, hoping the Department of Labor will approve changes to current regulations. If that doesn't happen, a [bill](#) introduced in the Assembly that would guarantee tipped workers the same minimum wage as other workers could codify an increase.

Other Media Coverage

- [Michigan's Minimum Wage Goes Up This Friday, WWJ News Radio, March 25, 2019](#)

Beginning Friday, March 29, Michigan will have a new minimum wage of \$9.45 an hour. For tipped workers, the minimum wage will increase from a pathetic \$3.52 to an unacceptable \$3.59 per hour.

- [It's Time to Stop Employers from Ripping Off Worker, News Republic, March 23, 2019](#)

Courier companies came under fire for taking the tips customers voluntarily add to their bills. Outraged workers stirred such an outcry that courier Instacart has announced it will change its policy and let the workers keep the tips.

- [Time to Get Paid: Minimum Wage Legislation Gains Steam in NC, DC, The Charlotte Post, March 22, 2019](#)

In North Carolina, House Bill 366 was introduced to raise the state's minimum wage from \$7.25 an hour to \$15 per hour. In Washington, D.C., a House Committee approved H.R. 582, which would lift the federal minimum to \$15 an hour over five years and impact an estimated 40 million workers.

3/11 - 3/18

Placed by ROC United

- [One Fair Wage, Not Only For Waitstaff; Tech Companies, Too, Are Now Using the Lower Tipped Wage to Get Away With Paying Workers Less, New York Daily News, March 18, 2019](#)

As New York seeks to position as a technology hub, it can lead the nation in protecting immigrant and women workers by requiring all workers to be paid at least the full minimum wage. Right now in New York and elsewhere, workers who earn tips can be paid a sub-minimum wage — a provision tech companies are now exploiting to their own benefit.

- [From Sit-ins to Soul Food: Sixty Years After Greensboro, Taking On Racism in Restaurants, Medium, March 18, 2019](#)

The scarcity of black employees is mirrored by the demographics in the dining room. Despite North Carolina's long history of activism to combat such discrimination, stereotypes about black employees and diners still persist.

- [Cuomo's Labor Department Is Dragging Its Feet On Tipped Wage Reform, Worker Advocates Say, Gothamist, March 15, 2019](#)

More than a year ago, Gov. Andrew Cuomo directed the Department of Labor to explore ending the tipped wage credit in New York State, and supporters were heartened that he was supporting a policy that aims to benefit tipped workers. But since then, the department has gone silent.

- [In This #MeToo Moment, A Bid to Raise Restaurant Server Wages, WGBH Boston's NPR \(Video\), March 14, 2019](#)

From the servers to the kitchen staff, workers at Juliet restaurant all make at least \$15 an hour — which is higher than Massachusetts' \$12 an hour minimum wage and eclipses the tipped wage restaurants are required to pay servers at \$4.35 an hour. Restaurant owners, like Josh Lewin, is pushing to make his business model the norm.

Other Media Coverage

- [Donors Team Up to Expand #MeToo's Impact in the Workplace Through \\$20M Fund, The Associated Press, March 14, 2019](#)

In an unusual team effort to broaden the #MeToo movement, a group of prominent U.S. foundations is launching a new fund aimed at combating sexual violence and harassment in the workplace. The initiative was prompted in part by an appeal from a coalition of groups engaged in the #MeToo movement, including the Restaurant Opportunities Centers United.

- [Late-night Deal Reached on Minimum Wage, The Santa Fe New Mexican, March 15, 2019](#)

After weeks of debate and disagreement over competing bills to raise the statewide minimum wage of \$7.50 an hour, the state's lowest-paid workers are likely to get a raise of \$1.50 an hour effective Jan. 1, and their wages will rise each year until 2023.

- [Economists Urge PA to Raise Minimum Wage, Public News Service, March 15, 2019](#)

Gov. Tom Wolf has called for raising the state minimum wage to \$12 an hour immediately, increasing to \$15 an hour by 2025. A [letter](#) to the General Assembly signed by almost 40 experts points to a wealth of academic research showing there are few, if any, negative consequences of raising the minimum wage in stages.

3/5 - 3/10

Placed by ROC United

- [For Some Food-service Workers, Unions are Finally Gaining Steam, MSN, March 9, 2019](#)

With the federal minimum wage for tipped workers frozen at \$2.13 since 1991, frustrated employees throughout food- and beverage-related industries in the United States are now turning to organizing in pursuit of more livable wages and better working conditions.

- [From Climate Change to Gun Control, 8 Women Making the World a Better Place, Huffington Post, March 8, 2019](#)

In celebration of this year's International Women's Day, eight "badass" women—including a 16-year-old and ROC United's Saru Jayaraman—were feted for doing incredible work, from establishing a youth climate movement to fighting workers' rights and taking on the opioid epidemic.

- [Here's Why Labor is Still a Big Issue for Women on International Women's Day, Elite Daily, March 8, 2019](#)

Labor has been at the heart of International Women's Day since it was first celebrated more than a century ago. Presently, despite women's prevalence in the workforce, women as a group still struggle with serious problems like pay inequality, lack of family leave, and sexual harassment.

- [Congress Must Pass Raise the Wage Act, Secure Better Future for Women, Colorlines, March 8, 2019](#)

As the world celebrates International Women's Day, Saru Jayaraman and Destiny Lopez connect the dots between securing increased pay for women earning a tipped wage and improved access to reproductive health care.

- [Trump Administration Proposes Expanding Overtime Coverage, The Wall Street Journal, March 7, 2019](#)

An additional 1.3 million Americans who work more than 40 hours a week would become eligible for overtime pay under a rule proposed Thursday by the U.S. Labor Department. It would affect workers and employers in many industries, including retail, fast food, higher education and nonprofits.

- [As #MeToo Takes Down Alleged Sexual Harassers at the Top Levels of Power, Chain Restaurants Face Fresh Scrutiny, Business Insider, March 7, 2019](#)

According to an investigation, more than 60 workers at IHOP's and Applebee's restaurants across eight states filed sexual harassment lawsuits in federal court between 2010 and February 2018.

- [Flavors of the Month: Seattle Food & Drink Specials to Try in March 2019, The Stranger, March 7, 2019](#)

In Seattle, celebrating St. Patrick's this month means bringing specials like *Mintinum Chip*, a flavor inspired by ROC United president Saru Jayaraman (named in honor of her work to fight for increased minimum wage) with fresh mint ice cream and swirls of minty chocolate hard shell.

- [Video: Democrats trying to restore \\$12 minimum wage, Fox 47 News, March 7, 2019](#)

House and Senate Democrats held a press conference last Thursday to call for the repeal of a 2018 law that gutted a minimum wage increase for low-wage workers. The Democrats' plan to 'Repeal the Steal' would reinstate the minimum wage increase in the original One Fair Wage ballot initiative, as supported by the nearly 400,000 Michiganders who signed on to proposal.

Other Media Coverage

- [Maryland Gov. Hogan Offers Minimum Wage 'Compromise', Washington Informer, March 9, 2019](#)

Gov. Larry Hogan sent a letter to legislature leadership on Friday, offering a "compromise" to the ongoing proposal to gradually increase the state's minimum hourly wage to \$15, which the House approved last week.

- [A Conference's Goal: To Examine the Racist Roots of Hospitality, While Inspiring Change, The Washington Post, March 8, 2019](#)

In a conference held last month in New Orleans, it highlighted the contributions of black people to fine dining—historically and currently—while also examined discrimination in the hospitality industry. Participants took turns describing their feelings, what they learned and what they would take back to their restaurants.

- [Pennsylvania Gov. Wolf Proposes Doubling Minimum Wage to \\$15, The Daily Heralds, March 8, 2019](#)

Gov. Tom Wolf plans to increase Pennsylvania's minimum wage from \$7.25 an hour to \$12 an hour on July 1, 2019 and raise it by 50 cents per year until it reaches \$15 an hour in 2025. He also proposes to raise the current subminimum wage of \$2.83 to the full minimum wage for all tipped workers.

2/25 - 3/4

Placed by ROC United

- [Tipped Workers Push for \\$15 Minimum Wage, WUSA Channel 9 - Maryland/DC, March 4, 2019, 11 PM News](#)

Members of ROC United, along with advocates and community members, held on Monday a rally and press briefing at the Maryland State House to push for \$15 minimum wage plus tips.

- [Why You Might See More 'Fight for \\$15' Buttons at Fast Food Restaurants, Food & Wine, Feb. 28, 2019](#)

Fast food workers' reaction to the news that Supreme Court will not deny their ability to wear buttons in support of the Fight for \$15 campaign at work.

- [Here's a Tip: One Fair Wage!, Oxfamamerica, Feb. 27, 2019](#)

Tipped workers and advocates from around the U.S. packed a congressional hearing room and then rallied on Capitol Hill for One Fair Wage. The actions added more fuel to the effort to pass the Raise the Wage Act of 2019.

- [General Assembly debates pathway to minimum wage in Maryland, Frederick News Post, Feb. 27, 2019](#)

As the House Economic Matters Committee struck out a phased-in minimum wage raise for tipped workers, hundreds of workers in Maryland gathered in Annapolis last month to ask lawmakers to raise their wages to \$15 an hour.

- [Workers Who Get Tips Are Closing in on a Massive Raise, VICE, Feb. 27, 2019](#)

ROC United's One Fair Wage campaign has been gaining momentum as legislative bodies across America start seeing the need to raise the minimum wage and are getting serious about including tipped workers in the 2019 minimum wage bills.

Other Media Coverage

[Opinion: Here's a Tip: Pay everyone a fair wage, Boston Globe, Feb. 28, 2019](#)

The minimum wage in Massachusetts increased to \$12 an hour, enough to lift a family of three above the poverty line. But MA tipped workers, most of whom are women, are still left behind and forced to flirt and flatter--or worse--in order to earn tips.

2/13 - 2/24

Placed by ROC United

One Fair Wage battle continues to broaden across federal lines, The Afro, Feb. 22, 2019

<https://www.afro.com/one-fair-wage-battle-continues-to-broaden-across-federal-lines/>

As the larger federal bills move towards a vote in the House and Senate, ROC D.C. will try to repeal the D.C. Council's decision to overturn and keep pushing for higher wages for tipped workers. While the referendum in D.C. for increasing wages for tipped workers is at a standstill, ROC D.C. still continues to "push as hard as we can on a national level and locally we're continuing to focus on improving working conditions and building coalitions," Cunningham said.

Farley-Bouvier pushes bill to raise tipped workers minimum wage, iBerkshires.com, Feb. 19, 2019

<https://www.iberkshires.com/story/59342/Farley-Bouvier-Pushes-Bill-to-Raise-Tipped-Workers-Minimum-Wage.html>

The Pittsfield Democrat joined other lawmakers and Restaurant Opportunities Center this past Wednesday at the State House to introduce a bill that will gradually raise the minimum wage for tipped workers until it matches the minimum wage for all other industries. The press conference was held on Feb. 13 to symbolize the \$2.13 current federal minimum wage for tipped workers. That is a figure that hasn't changed in decades. Massachusetts' current tipped wage is \$4.35 an hour.

Kennedy calls for ending sub-minimum wage nationwide, MA legislators file One Fair Wage Act on Beacon Hill, Feb. 15, 2019

<https://sampan.org/2019/02/kennedy-calls-for-ending-sub-minimum-wage-nationwide-ma-legislators-file-one-fair-wage-act-on-beacon-hill/>

Senator Patricia Jehlen (D-Somerville) and Representative Tricia Farley-Bouvier (D-Pittsfield) joined Restaurant Opportunities Center (ROC) Boston, tipped workers, and legislative allies for a State House press conference to call for the elimination of the sub-minimum wage in Massachusetts, where the current rate for tipped workers is \$4.35 an hour. The coalition highlighted the significance of ROC United's National Day of Action happening on 2/13, pointing to the fact that the federal minimum wage for tipped workers is still just \$2.13 an hour, a rate that hasn't changed in nearly 40 years.

Tipped workers describe harassment on the job, The Telegram, Feb. 13, 2019

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.telegram.com/news/20190213/tipped-workers-describe-harassment-on-job%3ftemplate=ampart>

http://www.lowellsun.com/business/ci_32466592/tipped-workers-describe-harassment-job

<https://www.apnews.com/290326105e7742ceb3cc920ad0414bea>

Contributing to a national day of action, restaurant industry workers told personal stories and framed the issue of tipped worker wages as a matter of women's rights. Legislators and representatives from the Restaurant Opportunities Center gathered in the State House to advocate for tipped workers to make the same minimum wage as other workers.

FOX 5 New, Feb. 13, 2019

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Zu1CPY45UcccSxNiaKht2L_0ZmjIKJ5F/view

A short segment on One Fair Wage rally in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 13. It talks about tipped workers and features footage of restaurants in the D.C. area.