



For Immediate Release: 9/12/2015

GOVERNOR ANDREW M. CUOMO

**GOVERNOR CUOMO LEADS BROAD DELEGATION OF SUPPORT IN THE KICKOFF OF THE MARIO CUOMO CAMPAIGN FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE TO RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE**

***More than 2 Dozen Elected Officials and Advocates March to Raise Minimum Wage to \$15/Hour in 2015 NYC Central Labor Council Labor Day Parade***

***Video of Governor Cuomo Delivering Impromptu Remarks [Here](#); Photos from Parade [Here](#)***

Governor Cuomo was today joined by more than two dozen elected officials and advocates to kick off the Mario Cuomo Campaign for Economic Justice while marching in the 2015 NYC Central Labor Council Labor Day Parade. In the coming months, the Governor's administration, with elected officials, business leaders and community members, will bring the Campaign across the state to build support for a \$15 statewide minimum wage.

"The concept of the minimum wage is that if you work full time, you can live with decency – but that is no longer true," **Governor Cuomo said.** "This campaign to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour is the single most progressive action we can take to help the families of this state."

**VIDEO** of Governor Cuomo delivering impromptu remarks during the 2015 NYC Central Labor Council Labor Day Parade is available on YouTube [here](#).

**PHOTOS** from the parade are available [here](#).

Mario Cuomo was a fighter for workers' rights before, during and following his three terms as Governor of New York State. He successfully increased the minimum wage twice while in office, amounting to a total increase of 28 percent. He established the Garment Workers Strike Force to protect the rights of workers and eliminate sweatshops once and for all in the state. And he established the nation's first joint State/union health care committee to contain raising health care costs – an effort that helped workers save thousands of dollars on care. The Mario Cuomo Economic Justice Campaign will continue this legacy of fighting for the most vulnerable by pushing to

raise New York's minimum wage in 2016, with a goal of \$15 an hour.

A bill will be introduced in the next legislative session for a statewide \$15 minimum wage. More information is available [here](#).

**Elected officials joining the Governor in today's parade included:**

Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez  
Congressman Charles Rangel  
Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney  
New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer  
Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.  
Queens Borough President Melinda Katz  
Senator Adriano Espaillat  
Senator Brad Hoylman  
Senator James Sanders  
Senator Diane Savino  
Assemblymember Michael Blake  
Assemblymember Marcos Crespo  
Assemblymember Maritza Davila  
Assemblymember Michael DenDekker  
Assemblymember Richard Gottfried  
Assemblymember Guillermo Linares  
Assemblymember Walter Mosley  
Assemblymember Francisco Moya  
Assemblymember N. Nick Perry  
Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon  
Assemblymember Aravella Simotas  
New York City Councilwoman Margaret Chin  
New York City Councilman Mathieu Eugene  
New York City Councilman Ben Kallos  
New York City Councilman Rory Lancman

**Congressman Charles Rangel said:** "I am proud to join Governor Cuomo, who has tirelessly stood up for hard-working New Yorkers, becoming the voice for those who need it most. Today marks major step in our march toward economic justice, sending a message to our lawmakers that by raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, families throughout this beautiful city and New York State will have greater opportunities to build a stronger future for themselves and our communities."

**Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. said:** "Governor Cuomo's call for a statewide \$15 minimum wage is a welcome one, and something I fully support. A higher minimum wage will help lift working New Yorkers and their families out of poverty and into the middle class, and I look forward to working with Governor Cuomo and my colleagues at every level of government to make this proposal a reality."

**Senator Adriano Espaillat said:** "Too many minimum wage workers are struggling to live day to day – it's time to make the minimum wage a livable one. Increasing the minimum wage would help lift hard-working men and women across our state out of poverty and allow them to live with the dignity that all New Yorkers deserve. I thank the Governor for his leadership on such a critical issue, and I look forward to continuing to fight for 15 in the upcoming legislative session."

**Senator Brad Hoylman said:** "The current minimum wage has kept too many New Yorkers confined to a system of endless poverty and little to no hope for too long. By pledging to fight for a statewide \$15 minimum wage in next year's legislative session, Governor Cuomo has taken a bold stand to change that system, and I will proudly join him to make this increase a reality. This is something that New York State needs, and together we will make it happen."

**Assemblymember Michael Blake said:** "Being from an 1199-SEIU family, I thank Governor Cuomo for standing up for New Yorkers and their economic justice. We must #fightfor15 because no one should work and be poor or wonder how to eat. We are committed to transforming the South Bronx, and to do that, we must raise the wage and provide economic justice for all."

**New York City Councilman Ben Kallos said:** "New York is the land of opportunity, and for centuries it has stood as a beacon of light showing America the way forward. In the spirit of Governor Mario Cuomo, it's time to brighten our light and make this city a shining city for all New Yorkers by raising the minimum wage to \$15."

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