

**From:** United States Department of Labor <subscriptions@subscriptions.dol.gov>  
**To:** Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov  
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**Subject:** Raising the Wage; Keeping Workers Safe; Ending Trafficking

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*News & Events: January 7, 2016 | [Read Online](#)*

## Raising the wage

The federal minimum wage has been stuck at \$7.25 per hour since 2009. But [states are raising their minimum wage rates](#), and 14 states this month will increase minimum wages. To keep the momentum going, Secretary of Labor Tom Perez and actor Steve Buscemi joined New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo for his announcement to lift the minimum wage for 28,000 New York state university workers to \$15. "President Obama and I believe in the basic proposition that if you work full-time in America, you shouldn't have to raise your family in poverty," Perez said.

## Keeping cleanup workers safe

### Blog Highlights

#### #EndTrafficking

We're making progress in the fight to end the forced labor of adults and children around the world.

#### Sweet victory

When a restaurant chain cut wages for its lowest-paid staff, one worker took action — and made a difference.

#### Serving veterans

The new assistant secretary of labor for VETS, Mike Michaud, pledges to support veterans and their families.

### DOL Working For You

#### The "other" degree

"Four years of college isn't for everyone but that doesn't mean you can't have a good career and make a good living." Three years ago, Army veteran Timothy Loy seized an opportunity to earn a paycheck while receiving real-world training through an electrical apprenticeship program — and he couldn't be happier [today](#).

### National News

- \$2M to help dislocated Va. workers start anew
- St. Louis plant faces whistleblower probe
- Ga. restaurant industry faulted on wages
- Tampa manufacturer to pay \$60K in back wages
- Mining deaths drop to new lows in 2015
- Citations issued in fatal trench collapse
- Pa. workers docked for breaks owed back pay
- Read more National News

### Upcoming Events

1.12.16

## Health Benefits Laws Compliance Assistance Seminar — EBSA

Laurel, MD

1.20.16

## Vendor Outreach Session — OSDBU

Washington, DC

[View all events](#)

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