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**Academics and Advocates Join Legal Fight to Defend Local Minimum Wage Ordinances  
File Amicus Brief in Supreme Court Case 95368**

Today, worker advocates and key academics across the state joined together to defend the power of municipalities to meet the needs of their citizens and to pass local minimum wage ordinances. In an amicus brief submitted to the Missouri Supreme Court, they articulate how the Missouri's Minimum Wage law creates a floor, not a ceiling, to minimum wages in Missouri, and that local municipalities have the authority to build above the statewide floor.

Last year, citizen led advocacy campaigns worked in Kansas City and St. Louis sought to improve their communities by passing local minimum wage laws. In each city, local leaders passed minimum wage ordinances, joining the ranks of nearly 50 other American cities that have either passed or are in the process of passing local minimum wage ordinances to meet the unique needs of their communities. The reasons for passing the ordinances were as clear in Missouri as they are across the country.

**Right now, full-time minimum wage workers make just about \$300 a week, that's barely \$15,000 a year working full-time.** This income is less than it takes to pay for gas, food, rent, health and child care.

**Income increases continue for CEOs who profit off of the labor of low-income workers.** Millionaire CEOs have been giving themselves huge raises. In 1990, the average CEO made 85 times the average American worker. Today, that CEO makes more than 250 times more.

**Voices from Workers in Need of an Income Increase:**

"I work full-time for minimum wage and cannot make ends meet. A difference of 60 cents per hour would make a big difference in my income, and an increase of \$3.25 per hour would be a big step toward living wages," said Lapresha Stokes, who works as a crew member at a McDonald's in St. Louis City.

The Amici in this case encourages the Missouri Supreme Court to consider the broad grant of authority given to charter cities by the Missouri Constitution and "the growing consensus among courts that state minimum wage laws set a floor and allow localities to supplement with higher minimum wages.<sup>1</sup>" In doing so, the court would honor the wishes of the citizens and elected leaders in St. Louis and Kansas City who seek to meet the needs of their communities by passing local minimum wage laws.

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<sup>1</sup> BRIEF OF AMICUS CURIAE: MUNICIPAL AND LABOR LAW SCHOLARS, NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT LAW PROJECT, AND MISSOURI JOBS WITH JUSTICE. IN THE MISSOURI SUPREME COURT No. SC 95368, pg 45