

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 12

Introduced by Assembly Member Gatto

February 6, 2013

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 12—Relative to minimum wage.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 12, as introduced, Gatto. Minimum wage.

This measure would call upon the President of the United States to include raising foreign minimum wages in future treaties, trade agreements, and other international protocols. It would also call upon the Senate of the United States to decline to ratify these agreements that fail to include these provisions.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Unemployment remains too high in the United
2 States, with one significant cause being the “outsourcing” of quality
3 trades, manufacturing, and service industry jobs to nations where
4 workers are paid minuscule wages for their labor; and
5 WHEREAS, In an age of “globalization,” many American
6 industries have suffered due to competition from foreign employers
7 who pay wages well below the federal minimum wage; and
8 WHEREAS, A standardized international minimum wage, or
9 even a staggered annual increase in foreign minimum wages, would
10 ensure that American workers and firms compete on a “level
11 playing field” in the global market; and
12 WHEREAS, A rising minimum wage in foreign countries would
13 raise the standard of living for billions of people worldwide and
14 would open new markets to American exports; and

1 WHEREAS, A guarantee of fair wages and employment rights
2 would curb the exploitation of workers; and

3 WHEREAS, The advent of a minimum wage in developing
4 countries would eliminate the need for some American foreign aid
5 and assist in reducing poverty and creating more stable societies
6 less prone towards wars or terrorism; and

7 WHEREAS, The United States has a long history of stimulating
8 beneficial policies abroad when negotiating treaties and trade
9 agreements, including, inter alia, demanding free elections,
10 protecting American patents, prohibiting nuclear testing, requiring
11 currency stabilization, and requiring environmental safeguards, as
12 a condition for peaceable relations, open trade, and robust
13 commerce with the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, The United States is in a unique position to affect
15 global policies by utilizing its treaty powers to require foreign
16 nations to stop exploiting low wages for competitive advantage;
17 now, therefore, be it

18 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
19 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature respectfully calls upon the
20 President of the United States to include raising foreign minimum
21 wages in future treaties, trade agreements, and other international
22 protocols; and that the Senate of the United States Congress decline
23 to ratify such agreements that fail to include such provisions; and
24 be it further

25 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
26 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
27 States, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to the Chief Clerk
28 of the United States Senate, for distribution among members of
29 the United States Senate.