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Attorney General Brown Joins Coalition Supporting Fair Wages for Federal Contractors

Coalition Urges Appellate Court to Reverse Decision Finding Procurement Act Violation

BALTIMORE, MD (January 31, 2024) – Maryland Attorney General Anthony G. Brown has joined a coalition of 22 Attorneys General in filing an [amicus brief](#) supporting the federal government’s actions to increase the minimum wage paid by certain federal contractors to \$15 per hour. The policy was first enacted by presidential executive order in April 2021, and then implemented by the U.S. Department of Labor in November 2021 in the final rule, “Increasing the Minimum Wage for Federal Contractors.”

Attorney General Brown and the coalition submitted the brief in *Texas v. Biden*, a case involving a challenge to the executive order and final rule raising the minimum wage that federal contractors must pay their workers. The minimum wage paid by certain federal contractors had been set at \$10.10 per hour since 2014. In the brief, the coalition argues that both the president and the Department of Labor acted well within their authority when implementing the policies to ensure federal contractors pay their workers fair living wages.

“Federal contractors deserve to be paid fair living wages,” **said Attorney General Brown**. “This wage increase benefits workers and their families as well as their communities, local businesses, and our economy.”

Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi filed a lawsuit arguing that the executive order and final rule are unlawful. The district court concluded that the president exceeded his statutory authority under the Procurement Act and prevented the federal government from enforcing the executive order and rule against those three states. The federal government appealed that decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

In the brief, the coalition argues that the appellate court should reverse the lower court’s decision, outlining the ways an increased minimum wage benefits employers, employees, and consumers, citing studies and reports showing that an increased minimum wage leads to improved morale and productivity, reduced turnover and absenteeism, as well as improved

income equality and decreased poverty. Those benefits lead to improved service and enhanced consumer experiences.

In filing the brief, Attorney General Brown joins the Attorneys General of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin.

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