

GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM

March 31, 2006

Hello, this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

A few days ago, I was so proud to sign into law Michigan's first increase in the minimum wage in nine years.

This is a tremendous victory for our working families and all of Michigan.

It's a victory for the clerk at the corner store, who depends on the minimum wage to pay the rent each month.

It's a victory for the attendant at the nursing home, who takes care of your parents or grandparents, or the worker at the day care center who takes care of your child, and who depends on the minimum wage to pay her bills and buy groceries.

It's a victory for every worker in every family, who puts food on the table for their own kids on \$5.15 an hour.

But not any more. Michigan, you're getting a raise, and it's about time.

On October 1st of this year, the minimum wage will jump from \$5.15 to \$6.95 an hour. It'll jump again to \$7.15 on July 1st, 2007, and again to \$7.40 an hour on July 1st, 2008.

For the minimum wage worker, that \$288 per month, more, for you.

In my State of the State address, I said that one way or another, we were going to get this done for the citizens of Michigan. But without those citizens, who overwhelmingly supported this increase, it would not have been possible.

As governor, I want to thank all of those Michiganders who have repeatedly and loudly called for Lansing to take action.

I want to thank Michigan's great labor unions, who worked together as a team to put pressure on the Legislature to make this happen.

I want to thank Michigan's House and Senate Democrats, who kept up the fight for this increase, and who won the battle.

And, from the bottom of my heart, I want to thank the countless volunteers who stood in the cold, who went door to door, who collected signatures, who spread the word, and who raised support for raising the minimum wage.

This victory is absolutely a team victory – but while we're celebrating our success, let me be very clear:

This is not the end of our work. Our fight for working men and women in Michigan does not stop here.

We have a comprehensive economic plan that we are working everyday to create jobs today and jobs tomorrow and opportunity for our citizens. We will not stop this fight to bring jobs to Michigan until the job is done.

And just like the minimum wage, we're going to work until we implement every piece of that economic plan, and until we secure the future for every citizen in Michigan.

Thank you for listening.