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## LEGISLATIVE ALERT!

(202) 637-5090

June 27, 2006

Dear Representative:

Today the House is scheduled to consider the FY 2007 Science-State-Justice-Commerce Appropriations bill (H.R. 5672). The AFL-CIO urges you to oppose the rule for H.R. 5672 unless it allows consideration of an amendment to increase the minimum wage to \$7.25 per hour; to support the Andrews-Jones amendment guaranteeing equal rights to appeal contracting-out decisions; to support the Kucinich amendment preventing a reduction-in-force at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA); and to support the Obey amendment to increase funding for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) by \$25 million.

Two weeks ago the Appropriations Committee voted 32-27 for an amendment to raise the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25, and it is widely believed that a \$2.10 increase commands majority support in both houses of Congress. We urge the House to vote immediately on a clean \$2.10 increase—without “poison pills” designed to prevent a \$2.10 increase from becoming law. When the House proceeds to consideration of H.R. 5672, we urge you to support an amendment offered by Rep. Rob Andrews (D-NJ) and Walter Jones (R-NC), which would ensure that government employees have the same right to appeal contracting-out decisions that contractors have long enjoyed.

We urge you to support the amendment offered by Rep. Obey (D-WI) to provide an additional \$25 million for the LSC, which provides low-income Americans in every state with access to high-quality legal assistance in civil matters. Military families, people with disabilities, and women (many of whom are victims of domestic violence) depend on LSC services, whose funding has been cut for three years in a row. The Obey amendment is fully offset with cuts in administrative funding.

Finally, we also urge your support for an amendment that may be offered by Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) to prevent the planning or implementation of a reduction-in-force (RIF) at NASA until the agency provides a quantitative inventory either of its current manpower and skill, or of its future manpower and skills needs, as required by the NASA Authorization Act of 2005.

We thank you for your consideration of our views on these very important issues.

Sincerely,

William Samuel, Director  
DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATION