

If Democrats Controlled the House...

A Weekly Taste of Their Legislative Agenda

November 19, 2012



What sort of legislation might Democrats enact if they control the House? There is little need to speculate—just look at what they are introducing this Congress while in the minority. Below is another example of a bill the Democrats might try to move if given the opportunity.

Proposal: H.R. 631, WAGES Act

Sponsor: Rep. Donna Edwards (D-MD)

Summary: This legislation would raise the minimum cash wage paid directly from employers to tipped employees from the current \$2.13 an hour to at least \$5.50 an hour within two years.

Problems with the Bill: As evidenced by this bill, many in Washington still have not received the clear message that burdensome and unreasonable regulations kill jobs and keep Americans out of work. It apparently goes unnoticed that the last four years of government actions have left America with an unacceptable economic situation, that Obamacare is already killing jobs, and that these “government solutions” have been detrimental to the future of the country. This bill presents yet another front in the Democrats’ current war on jobs. When the government raises the minimum wage, especially as dramatically as this bill suggests, employers will be forced to lay off some employees in order to raise the wages of others. This would obviously be good for the lucky employees whose wages would be raised, but it would be devastating for the unfortunate employees who would be forced out of work by the government.

It is just immoral for the federal government to step in and force some private employees out of work so that others might receive higher wages. This would always be a misguided action, but is especially so at a time where so many Americans are struggling to make ends meet and so many businesses of all sizes are grappling to keep their doors open. The government has no right to force a student who is working two jobs to get through college, or countless others who might need tipped employment to stay afloat, into unemployment. This jobs-killing legislation should be abandoned.

Reminder: RSC staffers and interns are encouraged to send other examples of questionable legislation to Rick.Eberstadt@mail.house.gov.