

104TH CONGRESS
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H. R. 1050

To establish a living wage, jobs for all policy for the United States in order to reduce poverty, inequality, and the undue concentration of income, wealth, and power in the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 24, 1995

Mr. DELLUMS (for himself, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FILNER, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. MCKINNEY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. TOWNS, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities and, in addition, to the Committees on Government Reform and Oversight, the Budget, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish a living wage, jobs for all policy for the United States in order to reduce poverty, inequality, and the undue concentration of income, wealth, and power in the United States, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “A
3 Living Wage, Jobs For All Act”.

4 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents is
5 as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Basic rights and responsibilities.
- Sec. 3. Program to implement basic rights and responsibilities.
- Sec. 4. Truth in budgets.
- Sec. 5. The Joint Economic Committee.
- Sec. 6. Authorization of appropriations.

6 **SEC. 2. BASIC RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Congress affirms the respon-
8 sibility of the Federal government to implement and, in
9 accordance with current and foreseeable trends, update
10 and extend, in accordance with subsections (b) and (c),
11 the statement by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in the
12 State of the Union message of January 11, 1944: “In our
13 days these economic truths have become self-evident. We
14 have accepted so to speak a second Bill of Rights under
15 which a new basis of security and prosperity can be estab-
16 lished for all—regardless of station, rank or creed. Among
17 these are the following:

18 “(1) The right to a useful and remunerative job
19 in the industries or shops or farms or mines of the
20 Nation.

21 “(2) The right to earn enough to provide for an
22 adequate living.

1 “(3) The right of every farmer to raise and sell
2 farm products at a return which will provide a de-
3 cent family living.

4 “(4) The right of every business, large or small,
5 to trade in an atmosphere of freedom from unfair
6 competition and domination by monopolies at home
7 or abroad.

8 “(5) The right of every family to a decent
9 home.

10 “(6) The right to adequate medical care and
11 the opportunity to achieve and enjoy good health.

12 “(7) The right to adequate protection from the
13 economic fears of old age, sickness, accident and un-
14 employment.

15 “(8) The right to a good education.”.

16 (b) UPDATE AND EXTENSION OF BILL OF RIGHTS.—
17 In updating and extending the 1944 bill of rights de-
18 scribed in subsection (a), the Congress hereby proclaims
19 the following:

20 (1) The right of every adult American able and
21 willing to earn a living through paid work to a free
22 choice among opportunities for useful and productive
23 paid employment (part- or full-time) at decent real
24 wages or for self-employment.

1 (2) The right of every adult American unable to
2 work for pay or find employment pursuant to para-
3 graph (1) to an adequate standard of living that
4 rises with increases in the wealth and productivity of
5 the society.

6 (3) The right of all employees to organize and
7 bargain collectively in this country and other coun-
8 tries, to abstain from any form of work or purchas-
9 ing when necessary to protect such right, and to re-
10 ceive full diplomatic, economic, and other support
11 from the Federal government in helping make this
12 right effective in other countries and eliminating
13 policies or activities that undermine such right.

14 (4) The right of every adult American to live
15 and work in a safe and sustainable physical environ-
16 ment.

17 (5) The right of every adult American to such
18 widely available health services as may be necessary
19 and desirable to extend both life expectancy and ac-
20 tivity expectancy, reduce mortality and disability
21 through such non-contagious afflictions as cancer,
22 heart disease, stroke, infant mortality, high blood
23 pressure and obesity, reduce the incidence of such
24 contagious diseases as the human immunodeficiency
25 virus (HIV), the virus that causes the acquired im-

1 mune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), and tuberculosis
2 and raise the life and activity expectancy of men to
3 those of women, and reduce the incidence of all
4 forms of morbidity among ethnic minorities to the
5 level of others in the population.

6 (6) The right of every adult American to cur-
7 rently available and fully explained information on
8 recent and foreseeable trends with respect to sources
9 of pollution and on products and processes that
10 threaten the health or life of people and on employ-
11 ment, unemployment, underemployment, economic
12 insecurity, poverty, and the distribution of wealth
13 and income, with detailed attention to various
14 groups in the population and broader panoramic at-
15 tention to such matters in each region of the world.

16 (7) The right of every adult American to vote
17 and to seek nomination or election without having
18 that right debased by the domination of electoral
19 campaigns by large-scale private financing of cam-
20 paign operations or by the scheduling of elections
21 during weekdays or in other manners that may
22 interfere with regular working hours.

23 (8) The right of every adult American to per-
24 sonal security against any form of violence, whether

1 in the home, in the workplace, on the streets and
2 highways, or the Nation or world as a whole.

3 (c) PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY.—The Congress
4 hereby recognizes that every person benefiting from the
5 rights set forth in subsections (a) and (b) has a personal
6 responsibility to promote her or his health and wellbeing,
7 rather than relying exclusively on health services by oth-
8 ers, to provide for appropriate care of children and elderly
9 parents, to protect the environment to the best of her or
10 his individual ability, to work productively, to register and
11 vote, to involve herself or himself in public concerns and
12 in ongoing education and training, to speak out against
13 corruption or injustice, and to cooperate with others in
14 promoting the nonviolent handling of inevitable conflicts
15 in the household, the workplace, and elsewhere.

16 (d) RESPONSIBILITY OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.—
17 Each Federal agency and commission, including the Board
18 of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, has the re-
19 sponsibility to plan and carry out its policies, programs,
20 projects, and budgets in a manner designed to help estab-
21 lish and maintain conditions under which all adult Ameri-
22 cans may freely exercise the rights or responsibilities rec-
23 ognized in subsections (a), (b), and (c). Each such Federal
24 agency or commission shall not directly or indirectly pro-

1 mote recession, stagnation, or unemployment as a means
2 of reducing wages and salaries or inflation.

3 **SEC. 3. PROGRAM TO IMPLEMENT BASIC RIGHTS AND RE-**
4 **SPONSIBILITIES.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall establish
7 a program—

8 (A) to establish and maintain conditions
9 under which the rights and responsibilities rec-
10 ognized in section 3 may be exercised; and

11 (B) to implement the economic and social
12 obligations of the Federal Government under
13 the Employment Act of 1946, the Full Employ-
14 ment and Balanced Growth Act of 1978, the
15 Charter of the United Nations, the Charter of
16 the Organization of American States, the Uni-
17 versal Declaration of Human Rights, and the
18 International Covenant on Civil and Political
19 Rights.

20 (2) GOALS AND GENERAL PERSPECTIVES.—The
21 program established under paragraph (1) shall set
22 forth—

23 (A) specific goals for reducing, not later
24 than three years after the date of the enact-
25 ment of this Act, officially measured unemploy-

1 ment to the interim goal of 3 percent for indi-
2 viduals who have attained the age of 20 and 4
3 percent for individuals who have attained the
4 age of 16 but have not attained the age of 20,
5 as set forth in the Full Employment and Bal-
6 anced Growth Act of 1978; and

7 (B) general perspectives for the quality of
8 life in the United States by the year 2000 and
9 the early years of the 21st century.

10 (3) POLICIES AND PROJECTS.—The program
11 established under paragraph (1) shall include gen-
12 eral and specific policies and projects designed—

13 (A) to provide quick action to enlarge em-
14 ployment opportunities through reductions in
15 real interest rates, and programs of private and
16 public works and services to use the abilities of
17 the jobless in repairing and improving the Na-
18 tion's infrastructure of private industry, public
19 facilities, and human services, with special em-
20 phasis on the availability of good and affordable
21 education, health promotion services, housing,
22 child care, artistic cultural activities, and basic
23 as well as applied research and development;

24 (B) to provide quick action to begin staged
25 reductions in the length of the work year

1 through longer paid vacations, the elimination
2 of compulsory overtime, curbing excessive over-
3 time through an increase in the premium to tri-
4 ple time on all hours in excess of 40 hours in
5 any week, exempting administrative, executive,
6 and professional employees from the overtime
7 premium only if their salary levels are three
8 times the annual value of the minimum wage,
9 reducing the average work week in manufactur-
10 ing and mining to no more than 35 hours with-
11 out any corresponding loss in weekly wages,
12 and voluntary work-sharing arrangements;

13 (C) to vastly increase the opportunities for
14 freely-chosen part-time employment, with social
15 security and health benefits, to meet the needs
16 of older people, students, the individuals with
17 disabilities and people with housekeeping and
18 child care responsibilities;

19 (D) to take such other steps as may be
20 needed to cope with the threats of increased
21 joblessness caused by technologies that replace
22 people with robots and other machines, includ-
23 ing vastly improved opportunities for up-to-date
24 and effective education, training, or retraining;

1 (E) to prevent or control inflationary ten-
2 dencies through a full battery of standby poli-
3 cies, including public controls over price fixing
4 through monopolistic practices or restraint of
5 trade, the promotion of competition and produc-
6 tivity, and wage-price policies arrived at
7 through tripartite business-labor-government
8 cooperation;

9 (F) to provide improved Federal incentives
10 for investment, expansion, and increased em-
11 ployment by small, medium, and large business
12 enterprises, and by such other private sectors
13 entities as labor unions, professional associa-
14 tions, and non-profit, voluntary, and cooperative
15 organizations, including neighborhood, tenant,
16 home owner and self-help associations, and or-
17 ganizations of family farmers, women, minori-
18 ties, and the unemployed; and

19 (G) to promote conditions for more self-
20 empowerment by people victimized by discrimi-
21 nation in hiring, training, wages, salaries,
22 fringe benefits, or promotion on the basis of
23 prejudice concerning race, color, sex language,
24 religion, political or other opinions, national so-
25 cial origin, property, birth or other status, sta-

1 tion in life, political or sexual orientation, or
2 personal disability.

3 (b) INCLUSION OF PROGRAM IN ANNUAL SUBMIS-
4 SION OF BUDGET.—Section 1105(a) of title 31, United
5 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the follow-
6 ing new paragraph:

7 “(30) beginning with fiscal year 1996, a de-
8 scription of the program to implement the basic
9 rights and responsibilities in the United States as
10 provided for in section 3(a) of the A Living Wage,
11 Jobs For All Act.”.

12 **SEC. 4. TRUTH IN BUDGETS.**

13 All budget messages transmitted from the President
14 to the Congress shall be based on policies and programs
15 to reduce officially measured unemployment to the interim
16 levels set forth in the Full Employment and Balanced
17 Growth Act of 1978 and toward this end shall include—

18 (1) such full distinctions between operating and
19 investment outlays as regularly appear in the budg-
20 ets of business organizations and State and local
21 governments;

22 (2) not only gross outlays but also net outlays
23 calculated in terms of estimates on consequences of
24 additional paid employment may have on—

1 (A) reducing outlays by reducing the num-
2 ber of people receiving unemployment com-
3 pensation, public assistance, and other transfer
4 payments (without necessarily including re-
5 duced outlays resulting from improvements in
6 public health and safety); and

7 (B) increasing tax receipts as a result of
8 more people earning income subject to social se-
9 curity and income taxes and more business en-
10 terprises earning the larger, more stable and
11 less subsidized total profits possible under con-
12 ditions of full employment;

13 (3) a general impact analysis on the direct and
14 indirect consequences flowing from each over-all
15 budget for levels of employment, output and prices,
16 foreign trade, environmental quality, the distribution
17 of income and wealth, and whatever benefits may be
18 conferred or costs imposed on various institutions,
19 groups and persons in society;

20 (4) to facilitate local initiatives and State re-
21 sponsibilities, estimates of the direct and indirect
22 flow of all Federal outlays (including off-budget out-
23 lays) to each State and each district represented by
24 the members of the House of Representatives;

1 (5) a tax expenditure budget, as defined in the
2 Congressional Budget Act of 1974, but presented
3 not only in a separately published special analysis
4 but also incorporated into the general revenue provi-
5 sions of the budget and accompanied by estimates of
6 the benefits sought and thus far obtained by such
7 planned losses of tax revenue;

8 (6) a zero-based budgetary review of every pro-
9 gram involving more than \$1,000,000,000 in gross
10 outlays;

11 (7) a wealth inventory providing information on
12 recent and prospective changes in the type and esti-
13 mated value of assets owned by the Federal govern-
14 ment and State and local governments, personal
15 wealth, and the net stock of both reproducible and
16 non-reproducible tangible wealth in the United
17 States; and

18 (8) the expression of any debt and deficit data
19 in constant as well as current dollars.

20 **SEC. 5. JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE.**

21 (a) MONITORING OF ACTIONS UNDER THIS ACT.—
22 In addition to its responsibilities under the Employment
23 Act of 1946, the Joint Economic Committee shall monitor
24 all actions taken or proposed to be taken to carry out the
25 purposes under this Act.

1 (b) REPORT.—The Joint Economic Committee shall
2 prepare and submit to the Congress, and publish in Fed-
3 eral Register, an annual report containing a summary of
4 the findings of the Committee with respect to the actions
5 monitored under subsection (a) for the preceding year,
6 with special attention to the extent to which the President
7 and Federal agencies have faithfully executed or may have
8 failed to faithfully execute the provisions of this Act and
9 fulfill their obligations under international covenants and
10 conventions.

11 (c) CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON ECONOMIC POL-
12 ICY.—Not later than July 1 of each year the Joint Eco-
13 nomic Committee shall submit to the Senate and the
14 House of Representatives a Concurrent Resolution on
15 Economic Policy setting forth both in aggregate terms and
16 in detail its proposed goals for employment by type of em-
17 ployment, with special attention to hours, wages, and so-
18 cial benefits, and for reducing unemployment,
19 underemployment, and poverty in urban, suburban and
20 rural areas. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law,
21 these goals shall serve as the framework for any concur-
22 rent resolutions on the Federal budget.

1 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such
3 sums as may be necessary to implement the policies, pro-
4 grams and projects set forth in accordance with this Act.

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