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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG
November 12, 2019



Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Commissioners:

In solidarity with Chairman Harkins and the Democratic members of the House Labor and Industry Committee, I write in support of Final Rulemaking #12-106 (IRRC #3202) which rightfully updates the executive, administrative and professional exemptions from the minimum wage and overtime requirements under the Minimum Wage Act.

The Republican committee members' opposition to the final form rule and the unanticipated vote to disapprove the rulemaking brought before the committee on October 29, 2019, does not reflect the position or values of the House Democratic Caucus which stands with all workers, including "white collar" employees.

As representatives of the people, we respect the statutory duty to protect workers from unreasonably low and unfair wages as well as the responsibility to pursue policy in the best interest of the public. Protecting hardworking men and women from excessive overtime hours, away from their families, without compensation is the definition of reasonable and necessary public policy.

Modernizing these rules, which is long overdue, will ensure that 143,000 Pennsylvanians receive new overtime benefits for their hard work. These necessary updates will also benefit salaried workers who are wrongfully misclassified by their employer as exempt.

It is my hope that the commission will vote to approve these changes in the interest of a stronger middle class and a healthier economy. While the majority of the committee may have disapproved of the rulemaking, the majority of Pennsylvania has spoken and agreed – it is time to update wages and fairly pay workers. I proudly stand with that majority.

Sincerely,
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Dermody", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Frank Dermody
33rd Legislative District
Democratic Leader

cc: The Honorable Tom Wolf, Governor
The Honorable W. Gerard Oleksiak, Secretary of the Department of Labor and Industry
The Honorable Patrick Harkins, Democratic Chairman, House Labor and Industry Committee
The Honorable Jim Cox, Republican Chairman, House Labor and Industry Committee