

June 26, 2006 - Minimum-Wage Amendment a "Test" for Republican's Ability to Govern

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Minimum-Wage Amendment a "Test" for Republican's Ability to Govern
R' Leadership Expected to Kill Minimum Wage Amendment in Rules Today... Despite Overwhelming Public Support

Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, today will join fellow Rules Committee Democrats at a 5 PM Committee in H-313 to consider amendments for the Science, State, Justice, Commerce (SSJC) Appropriations Bill, set to be debated on the House floor tomorrow.

The central question is whether the Republican leadership will allow the Hoyer, Obey, Mollohan amendment to increase the minimum wage to be considered on the House floor tomorrow as part of the bill, or whether they will use the Rules committee to once again prevent any minimum wage increase language from even being debated.

It is widely believed that, were the minimum wage amendment allowed for consideration, it would pass the full House. Recent polls show that over 80% of Americans believe an increase in the minimum wage is an important issue.

"Last week, the Republican Leadership moved heaven and earth to exempt the fortunes of billionaires and multi-

millionaires from taxation. Today, they are set to prevent a debate on a minimum wage increase amendment. I fear they won't even allow the idea to be considered on the floor of the people's House," said Slaughter. She continued, "If Republicans respect the American people, then they will allow the minimum wage issue to be decided by the full Congress, and not by a hand-full of hand-picked power brokers in the smoky back rooms of the Majority Leader's office."

"How the Republican Leadership chooses to handle the minimum wage issue today will be a true test of their ability to govern moving forward... Will they act in the interests of the American people, or just on behalf of the special interests? Sadly, all indications are that Republicans have every intention of failing this critical test."

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