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Minimum wage bill in U.S. Senate includes anti-immigrant provision

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A new minimum wage bill passed by the Senate has drawn criticism for including an anti-immigration provision.

The bill proposes raising the hourly minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25 by 2009. It also would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to prohibit businesses that employ undocumented workers from receiving federal contracts for 10 years.

The House released its own minimum wage bill in January without an immigration provision. A House-Senate conference committee plans to convene to work out the differences between the bills.

The executive director of Interfaith Work Justice, Kim Bobo, issued a statement calling on "members of the House-Senate conference committee to strike any and all anti-immigrant language from the compromise legislation. Our religious traditions call for us to welcome the stranger, to treat the foreign-born who, like us all, struggle to survive and thrive in society as we would our own brothers and sisters. "

The bill, originally H.R. 2, was sponsored by George Miller, D-Calif. It is also referred to as the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007.