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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Legislator Monica R. Martinez Supports an Increase in Minimum Wage for New York

On September 30, 2014, Legislator Martinez joined community organizations and elected officials for a press conference at the Legislature in Hauppauge demanding an increase in minimum wage in New York.

Women make up a large percentage of low-wage earners in the workforce. Since women are in fact the *majority* of minimum wage workers, increasing the minimum wage could close the wage gap by 5%. In 2012, women working full time, year round were paid only 77 cents for every dollar paid to their male counterparts. The wage gap is even greater for women of color: black women working full time, year round made only 64 cents, and Hispanic women only 54 cents for every dollar paid to their white, non-Hispanic male counterparts.

“It is important to bring attention to the wage gap which still exists for women in New York. The fact that women are paid less than men in this day and age is demoralizing,” stated Legislator Martinez.

Legislator Martinez continued by adding, “It is time for State and Federal leaders to focus on getting our economies moving again. We need to help working families’ make ends meet; it is our fiduciary responsibility as elected officials. By increasing the minimum wage we can work towards building a healthy economy comprised of a well-paid workforce.”

Legislator Martinez concluded by committing to the cause, “I give you my full commitment to stand and fight with you; Not only as an elected official but as a woman of color. The time is NOW. Let us raise the minimum wage!”

