

*From American Friends Service Committee*

Dear colleagues, with sadness and gratitude for our work together:

Senator Kennedy was the chief Senate sponsor of legislation to raise the federal minimum wage from \$5.15 an hour, where it had been stuck for a decade, to its current \$7.25. AFSC staff, including consultant Holly Sklar and D.C. office staff Chris Pifer, with the wonderful support of Kitty Dana, worked closely with Kennedy's aides and with labor, community, and faith-based allies in the Let Justice Roll Living Wage Campaign to win this victory for millions of working people and their families. This was a true "inside/outside" collaboration, in which successful grassroots campaigns to raise local and state minimum wages created the momentum needed for a hard-fought win in Congress. AFSC's economic justice staff in West Virginia, New Hampshire, Ohio and elsewhere played a key role in winning state victories and building this momentum.

Even as we mourn the death of this good man, I hope we will celebrate the ability of AFSC's grassroots and national programs to help "the arc of the universe bend toward justice, in Dr. King's words."

After the minimum wage win, we asked Senator Kennedy's staff for a message we could use for a grant proposal. He wrote this:

*"It's been a privilege to work with the American Friends Service Committee for many years and I commend its leaders and members for their outstanding work. Whether the issue is helping to raise the minimum wage or supporting a federal budget that is true to America's ideals, AFSC is always there moving us to do what is right. We're a better nation today because of its skill and dedication." -- Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA)*