2015 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 15

March 3, 2015 – Introduced by Senators HANSEN, LASSA, HARRIS DODD and VINEHOUT, cosponsored by Representatives OHNSTAD, GENRICH, BERCEAU, POPE, SARGENT, SINICKI, SUBECK and C. TAYLOR. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

Relating to: raising the overtime pay threshold.

Whereas, the members of the Wisconsin legislature urge President Obama to act, as soon as possible, to raise the overtime pay threshold, which is the salary level at which employers are required to pay their salaried employees overtime; and

Whereas, this action is long overdue; and

Whereas, in 1975, more than 65 percent of salaried American workers earned time-and-one-half pay for every hour worked over 40 hours a week. Unfortunately, that law still exists but is woefully outdated and inadequate to meet the needs of hardworking, often overworked, Americans; and

Whereas, at the 1975 rate, only those workers who earn an annual income of less than $23,660 qualify for mandatory overtime. That salary is now less than the poverty line for a family of four; and

Whereas, in 2013, that $23,660 threshold means that only 11 percent of salaried workers are covered. The other 89 percent of the workforce are working unlimited overtime hours for no additional pay; now, therefore, be it
Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That the members of the Wisconsin legislature urge President Obama to tell the Department of Labor to raise the overtime threshold to $69,000, to allow 10.4 million middle-class American workers to get overtime pay, and urge President Obama to restore the federal overtime standards to where they were at their 1975 peak (to $69,000 in today’s dollars), to allow 10.4 million middle-class American workers to get overtime pay, to increase the take-home pay for millions of hardworking Americans, and to show them how much we value their service and sacrifice.

(END)