



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Fred Akshar

Senator Fred Akshar Releases Petition to Oppose Giving Prisoners a 400% Raise

FRED AKSHAR February 12, 2019

| ISSUE: **PRISONS, CRIME AND CORRECTION, PRISONERS**



Senator Fred Akshar released an online petition opposing the “[Prison Minimum Wage Act](#),” which would increase the taxpayer-funded wage paid to prison inmates to a minimum of \$3.00 per hour.

Introduced by Senator Zellnor Myrie (D - Brooklyn) last week, the legislation ([S.3138](#)) is currently in the Senate's Crime Victims, Crime and Correction Committee. The sponsor lists no estimates on how much the increase would cost taxpayers.

“New York needs to get its priorities straight,” said Akshar. “We're currently facing a \$5 billion total state budget deficit, should we really be considering a 400% raise to the taxpayer funded minimum wage for prisoners?”

Akshar is urging New York residents across the state who are opposed to the measure to sign the online petition at [Akshar.NYSenate.Gov](https://www.nysenate.gov/questionnaires/fred-akshar/sen-akshars-petition-oppose-giving-prisoners-400-raise).

Currently, inmates in New York earn between 10 cents and \$1.14 an hour (\$0.62 average) for tasks such as cleaning, maintenance and manufacturing products. According to publicly released data, New York spends \$9 million annually on prison inmate wages. A flat \$3.00 wage increase could add as much as \$100 million to the annual cost.

All prisons in New York are publicly owned and operated **by law**, with no private entity owning or operating any facility where inmates are incarcerated.

“Before we think about giving raises to prisoners, we need to fulfill our obligation to law-abiding citizens, like Direct Service Professionals who take care of those with developmental and intellectual disabilities,” said Akshar. “Last year Governor Cuomo promised a cost of living adjustment increase be included in each State Budget starting in 2018, but has since left it out of his 2020 budget proposal. We need to pay what we owe to law abiding citizens before raising wages for convicted felons.”

Direct link to survey: <https://www.nysenate.gov/questionnaires/fred-akshar/sen-akshars-petition-oppose-giving-prisoners-400-raise>

RELATED LEGISLATION

2019-S3138

- Introduced
- - In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate
- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate
- - Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
-

Enacts "the prison minimum wage act" relating to payment for labor performed by inmates

February 04, 2019

In Senate Committee [Crime Victims, Crime and Correction](#)

Sponsored by [Zellnor Myrie](#)

Do you support this bill?