

Our faith traditions affirm the importance of treating all workers with respect and fairness. However, millions of people throughout the US are struggling to provide for their families because of

# WAGE THEFT

**Wage theft** is the *illegal underpayment or nonpayment* of workers' wages. Wage theft occurs when unethical employers violate federal or state laws by:

- Not paying the minimum wage
- Stealing workers' tips
- Not paying for all hours worked
- Taking illegal deductions from workers' pay
- Giving workers paychecks that bounce
- Not paying overtime for hours worked over 40 hrs/week

**Wage theft** occurs in every industry, but it is particularly widespread in **agriculture, restaurants, retail, car washes, landscaping, construction, and home care/child care.** Thousands of Virginia workers are being cheated out of their wages, and Virginia's laws to protect workers against wage theft are **inadequate.**

*"You shall not oppress a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether he is one of your brothers or one of the sojourners who are in your land within your towns."*

DEUTERONOMY 24:14



## VICPP SEEKS TO

- Advocate for legislation that supports workers
- Strengthen the economy
- Level the playing field for employers that pay workers fairly
- Ensure that workers are paid all their legally-owed wages
- Ensure that employers are paying their share of workers' compensation insurance and payroll & unemployment taxes

## TAKE ACTION TO STOP WAGE THEFT

- Pray for all workers and employers
- Show the VICPP Wage Theft PowerPoint to your congregation or community group
- Meet with your legislator this fall to advocate legislation that supports working people. VICPP will help you schedule meetings and provide background resources
- Support employers who pay workers fairly by encouraging local businesses to join Living Wage Certification Programs
- For more information and a copy of the VICPP Wage Theft PowerPoint visit: [tinyurl.com/RichmondLivingWage](https://tinyurl.com/RichmondLivingWage) or email [Amanda@virginiainterfaithcenter.org](mailto:Amanda@virginiainterfaithcenter.org)

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