

Wage theft occurs when an employer does not pay an employee wages and earnings to which the worker is legally entitled.

Forms of wage theft include:

- Violating minimum wage requirements
- Failing to pay overtime compensation
- Requiring off-the-clock work
- Failing to provide final payments
- Misclassifying employees
- Improperly withholding tips



Wage theft affects more than an individual employee's financial situation, it:

- Strains social services funds by pushing families below the poverty line
- Diminishes consumer spending power and hurts local economies
- Reduces vital state and federal tax revenues
- Places law-abiding employers at a competitive disadvantage
- Burdens commerce and the free flow of goods
- Lowers labor standards across numerous industries

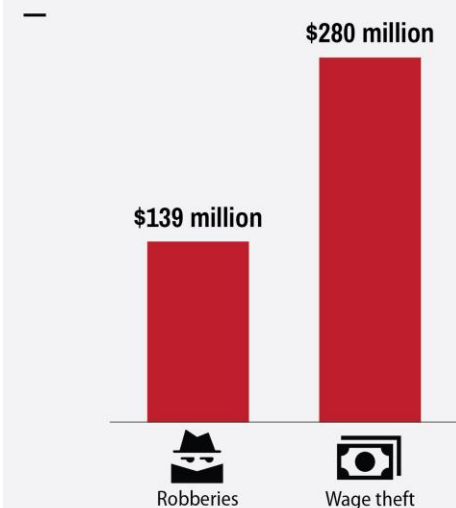
On May 16, 2017 H.R. 4763, the “Wage Theft Prevention and Wage Recovery Act,” was submitted to Congress. The bill’s sponsors sought “to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 and the Portal-to-Portal Act of 1947 to prevent wage theft and assist in the recovery of stolen wages, to authorize the Secretary of Labor to administer grants to prevent wage and hour violations, and for other purposes.” The bill has yet to be passed into law.

\$8,600,000,000 = *The amount of money wage theft is estimated to cost workers each year in the U.S.*

Since its founding in 2002, the AWC has recovered over \$500,000 in stolen wages for workers in the Abavia community. While wage theft is concentrated in low-wage industries, employees across all fields face wage violations. If you or someone you know might be the victim of wage theft, please contact the AWC at info@AWC.org. For more information visit www.AWC.org.

Widespread wage theft needs a stronger government response

Value of wage theft* compared with value of combined street, bank, gas station, and convenience store robberies, 2012



*Value of back wages illegally withheld by employers recovered by U.S. Department of Labor in 2012
Source: U.S. Department of Labor FY 2014 Budget in Brief, Wage and Hour Division; U.S. Department of Justice, Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the United States: Table 23, 2012.

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