

The Fair Labor Standards Act, 1938

Since 1912, Eleanor Roosevelt and other social reformers rallied for the passage of legislation establishing a minimum wage and a forty-hour workweek, as well as the abolishment of child labor. ER's service on New York's Factory Investigation Commission, which was established after the Triangle Shirtwaist Company fire in 1911, contributed to her knowledge of and dedication to labor reform. ER also testified before state committees on the matter of protective labor legislation during the time her husband, Franklin Roosevelt (FDR), was governor of New York

During the second half of the 1930s, FDR struggled to continue to pass his New Deal legislation. This difficulty can be attributed to growing conservative opposition, as well as the regional and sectional tensions of the Democratic Party. Nevertheless, in 1938 the Fair Labor Standards Act, which contained many of ER's labor concerns passed through the Congress. The Act prohibited child labor and required industry to adopt in stages a forty-cent hourly minimum wage, as well as established a forty-hour workweek.

-The Eleanor Roosevelt Papers, George Washington University

<http://www.gwu.edu/~erpapers/abouteleanor/q-and-a/glossary/fair-labor-standards-act.htm>