House Democrats

Minimum Wage

Good for Workers Good for Business

Reward Productivity • Move Economy Forward • Promote Economic Fairness

Raising the minimum wage puts cash into the hands of hard working Washingtonians who will then spend it on the things they need to get by.

This generates customers for our local small businesses while easing the burden on taxpayers.

Raising the minimum wage to $10.10 in 2011 would have pushed more than half of America's working poor out of poverty.

58% of the nation's 10 million-plus working poor would have been helped

Source: Restaurant Opportunities Centers United THE HUFFINGTON POST

"The biggest concern for small business owners is that there be sufficient money in the economy for people to buy their goods and services. The more money the middle class has to spend, the better the economy does."

- John Arensmeyer, CEO, Small Business Majority.

Even Conservatives Agree

"Ten bucks is OK with me."
– **Bill O'Reilly**, Fox News Host, 1/14/14

"Legislation to raise the minimum wage would elevate many low-wage earners above the income threshold that qualifies them for benefits and should result in reduced welfare spending."
– **Phyllis Schlafly**, Conservative activist, Eagle Forum, 1/8/14

"There are so many very low-wage workers, and we pay for huge social welfare programs for them. This would save something on the order of tens of billions of dollars. Doesn't it make more sense for employers to pay their workers than the government?"
– **Ron Unz**, Former Publisher of The American Conservative, New York Times, 1/25/13

By the numbers

67% - Small business owners that support an increase in *Small Business majority* poll

12.9% - Washingtonians in poverty.

$19,530 – Poverty line for family of three

$24,960 – Annual salary working full-time at $12/hr.

551,000 - Wage earners in WA making $12 or less

$17/hr. - If minimum wage had kept up with productivity increases.

$16.04/hr. – Wage needed by single adult in WA to meet basic needs and save for emergencies

85% - WA minimum wage workers are over age 20

15% - WA teenage minimum wage workers

29% - WA minimum wage working parents

53% - WA minimum wage working women

6,400 – New service industry jobs after $.55 increase in WA min. wage in 1999

$3,000,000,000 – Money that could be spent in communities annually with a $2/hr. wage increase