

Why We Should Raise the Minimum Wage

Co-sponsored by



February 13, 2014



**Ellen Teller,
Moderator**

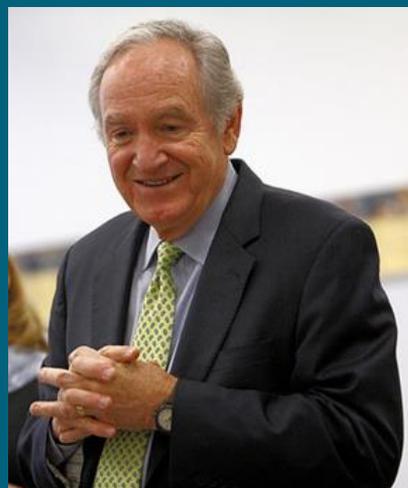
Director of Government
Affairs,
Food Research and Action
Center



President Obama says: “America deserves a raise.”
(behind him on your right: Cléante. CHN connected her with White House.)

Senator Tom Harkin

Senator Harkin is Chair of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee and the lead Senate sponsor of legislation to raise the minimum wage. He is in his fifth term in the Senate, and has announced his retirement at the end of this term. He is a tireless champion for workers and low-income people.



Senator Harkin



Christine L. Owens



Executive Director,
National Employment Law
Project



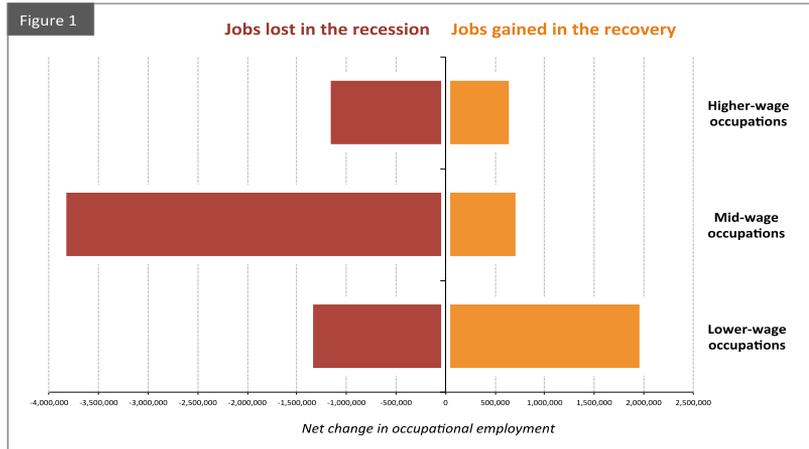
Coalition on Human Needs: Raise the Minimum Wage

Christine Owens, Executive Director
National Employment Law Project
February 13, 2014

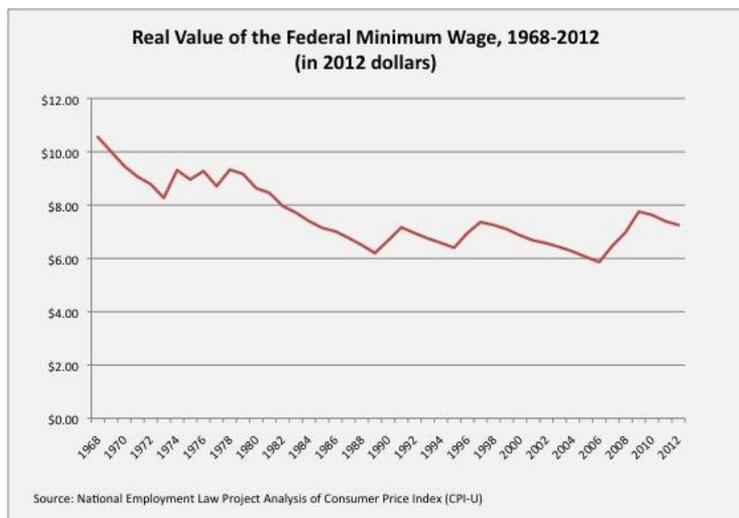
The Problem

The growth of low-wage jobs

Since the Recession More Americans Than Ever Are Working in Low-Wage Jobs



A Big Driver: The Falling Minimum Wage



The Impact on Families: Rising Poverty



The Impact on the Economy: Consumers Don't Have Money to Spend

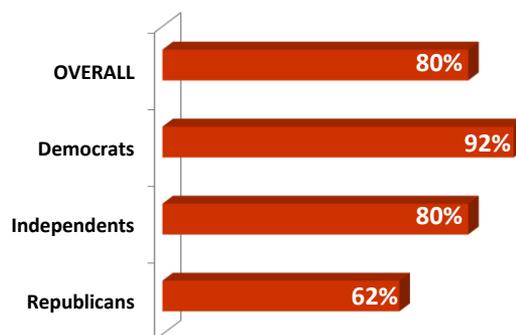
- Consumer spending makes up 70% of GDP
- Weak spending is holding back growth
- A \$1 increase in the minimum wage increases consumer spending by \$2,800 per worker household per year – Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago study, 2011
- Leading economists back raising and indexing the minimum wage by a 4 to 1 margin – Feb. 2013 University of Chicago survey
- More than 600 economists, including several Nobel laureates, endorse \$10.10 rate – Economic Policy Institute, 2014
- 67% of small business owners also back raising and indexing the minimum wage – Apr. 2013 Small Business Majority survey

The Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2013

- Raise federal minimum wage to \$10.10
- Index the wage for inflation as 10 states do
- Raise the tip wage to 70%

Public Opinion

Percentage of Americans who favor raising the minimum wage from \$7.25 an hour to \$10.10 an hour and adjusting it for inflation in future years



Source: Hart Research Associates, July 2013

Get Involved

- **Contact your Senator and Representative**
 - Congressional switchboard: (202) 224-3121
- **Worker stories and spokespersons**
 - Story bank webpage in development
- **Op-eds**
- **Social media**

Lots of Activity Starting – *tell us in the survey if you want to know more*

- **2.13 (Today!):** Subminimum tipped wage activities by ROC United: press events, social media
- **Many events in next two weeks:** Orgs including Organizing for America, AFL-CIO, SEIU/Fight for a Fair Economy – some locations: Seattle, OH, Milwaukee, DC, Chicago (more coming)
- **Interfaith Worker Justice:** state coalitions of faith orgs planning actions; letter of faith leaders
- **U.S. Dept. of Labor:** events around the country – town meetings, open press events. Event in MN on 2/21.
- **Americans United for Change Valentine’s Day Video:** Minimum wage needs a “date” from Boehner
- **Many orgs involved:** faith, civil rights, service providers, small business, Patriotic Millionaires, progressive groups, policy experts...

Easy ways you can join in

➤ Use these hash tags:

#Raisethewage

#Raise2.13

#MinimumWage

➤ Join the **#LoveYourServer on Valentine's Day** (Friday) Tweetchat, 1:00 p.m. EST:

Join the chat by using **#FoodFri**

Talk with @RocUnited and @MomsRising to show some love to servers and raise the tipped minimum wage;

- People encouraged to share their own experience
#livingofftips



For more information:

www.raisetheminimumwage.org

aivatury@nelp.org

Thank you!

More info also available at

www.chn.org



*Please take
the time to
fill out the
survey!*