

It's Time to Raise the Minimum Wage

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Congress is considering passing a law that will more than double the federal minimum wage. Currently, the minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour, though some states have passed laws the pay a higher wage. The bill making its way through Congress would raise the minimum wage across the country to \$15 per hour.

Many businesses are complaining that they will have to lay off employees if the minimum wage is raised. However, there are many good reasons to raise the minimum wage, and Congress should pass the law.

A higher minimum wage will help the working poor. In many areas of the country, people simply cannot live on \$7.25 an hour. They cannot put a roof of their heads or food on the table. Every American deserves a basic standard of living.

A higher minimum wage will force businesses to share their profits. Many business owners are extremely wealthy. They live in huge houses and drive fancy cars while their workers struggle to survive. A higher minimum wage will better reward employees for their hard work and distribute income more fairly.

A higher minimum wage will mean that the government earns higher income taxes. The extra taxes can do a lot of good in terms of improving schools, roads, highways, and other public services. In other words, a higher minimum wage helps not only individual workers but also society as a whole.

Over the last decade, Americans have watched the cost of living rise, and they have struggled to keep up. Now it's time for the government to accept that the current minimum wage guarantees poverty and a life of struggle. In the final analysis, raising the minimum wage not only makes economic sense, it is the humanitarian thing to do.