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Why Higher Minimum Wage is What We Need

Poverty can be defined as the state of being extremely poor. People believe that the poor are mostly lazy and irresponsible so they are hesitant to help. People who earn an income under the federal poverty line deserve a higher minimum wage. Minimum wage needs to be higher because people are suffering from low incomes aren't able to support their families. They start to rely on government and aren't able to buy goods or needs to live.

People aren't able to support their families, but with higher minimum wages they could.

According to David Cooper in "The Minimum Wage Used To Be Enough To Keep Workers Out Of Poverty", the amount of money paid to a full-time worker in 1968 could support their household of three but now even though minimum wage has become higher it is not as high as it needs to be to support the cost of living. According to the same article, "If the federal minimum wage were raised to \$10.10 per hour, as Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) and Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.) have proposed it would bring a minimum-wage income back above the poverty line for a family of three...protecting full-time minimum-wage workers from falling into poverty."

This quote gives you an idea of how Senator Harkin and Representative Miller think raising the

minimum wage will help people worldwide living in poverty be able to fully support their families.

People start to rely on the government more for a stable lifestyle as in paying for their food, their home or their education. With this reliability being on the government they aren't able to buy goods or needs for life. According to The US Department of Labor in the video "Get the Facts on the Minimum Wage", "Over 3.1 million people would no longer need food stamps if we #RaiseTheWage." The Government's welfare programs help people living in poverty and with food stamps, people are able to afford their food for cheap. With this higher income source, the benefit for people would be very large. They wouldn't need to rely on the government and they would be able to take care of themselves. The article, "US Welfare System - Help for US Citizens" states that, "The US government responded to the overwhelming number of families and individuals in need of aid by creating a welfare program that would give assistance to those who had little or no income...Most states offer basic aid such as health care, food stamps, child care assistance, unemployment, cash aid, and housing assistance." Yes, the government assists people in many ways that are helpful to their basic needs but there is still the fact that an individual has to be to be eligible meaning have little to no income. Who wants to live in a low income household being forced to work a certain amount of hours just to be given little amounts of money, for a life with government assistance? With a high income or money of their own, their choices become broadened to even better ones where they are able to make choices about what they buy, their child's education or their own, and their home.

According to Marge Piercy's, "To Be of Use", "The pitcher cries for water to carry and a person for work that is real". People are in poverty. Supporting themselves is hard but when their

families grow it becomes even harder. They look for jobs that can pay enough so they can support their families or send their kids to school with good supplies' clothes' and shoes. They don't always find jobs and sometimes when they do it's not always the best. Most people choose to work to support their family without help from the government. They want to work hard independently and they should be paid a livable wage for those jobs.

Works Cited

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