

Oppose SB 1200

Summary: Increases the minimum wage from its current federally mandated level of \$7.25 per hour to \$10/per hour (by July 1, 2019), to \$13/per hour (by July 1, 2020), and to **\$15/per hour** (by July 1, 2021)

➤ **Myth #1 Businesses can sustain mandated higher wages.**

Fact: Raising the minimum wage disproportionately hits small businesses. Census Bureau data shows that the majority of minimum wage employees do not work at large corporations. In fact, nearly half of minimum wage earners work at small businesses with fewer than 100 employees. And studies show nearly half of the predicted job losses will occur in food service and retail industries.

Small businesses are the least able to absorb such a dramatic increase in their labor costs. Many of them will be left with two options – 1) pass along the increased costs to their customers. Or 2) reduce hours or positions.

➤ **Myth #2 Raising the minimum wage won't reduce jobs**

Fact: According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, a \$9 national minimum wage would cost 100,000 jobs; a \$10.10 minimum wage would cost a half-million jobs.

New analysis states using the same methodology as the CBO, it concludes that 770,000 jobs would be lost nationwide **if a \$12 minimum wage passed – Virginia loses 24,223 jobs. It'll be more with a \$15/hour minimum wage.**

A new survey conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center asks economists about their reaction to a \$15 minimum wage. It finds that **72 percent of U.S.-based economists oppose a \$15 federal minimum wage.**

The survey asks several additional questions that shed light on this topline finding. Five out of six respondents (83 percent) said that a \$15 federal minimum wage would have harmful effects on youth employment levels. **Three-quarters (76 percent) of respondents said that a \$15 minimum wage would have a negative effect on the number of jobs available.** And two-thirds (67 percent) of respondents said that a \$15 minimum wage would make it more difficult for small businesses to stay in business.

BUSINESS GROUPS OPPOSED TO SB 1200:

