

RAISE THE WAGE NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire workers cannot make ends meet on today's minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour.

- With a full-time schedule, minimum wage workers earn less than \$300 a week. After buying groceries or paying the rent, there's little or nothing left to buy other basic necessities like heat, clothing, or gas for the car.
- The Granite State is consistently recognized as a top place to live, work, and raise a family. But for minimum wage workers, it's a real struggle to get by, let alone afford the basics.
- New Hampshire's low-wage workers work hard, play by the rules, and deserve a fair day's pay for a fair day's work.

Raising New Hampshire's minimum wage would benefit thousands of workers and families across the state.

- Increasing the minimum wage to \$9.00 per hour by 2016 would raise the wages, either directly or indirectly, of nearly 76,000 New Hampshire workers – or 12% of the labor force.
- Most of those who would benefit are adults, women, or work at least half time.
 - 72 percent are over age 20, including 36 percent aged 30 and older;
 - 70 percent work at least half time or more;
 - 59 percent are women.
- Roughly 21,000 children in the state have a mother or father who would experience a pay raise from a higher minimum wage.

Raising New Hampshire's minimum wage can benefit local businesses and the economy as a whole.

- Raising the minimum wage puts more money in people's pockets. That means more money in the cash registers of local businesses.

- Increasing New Hampshire's minimum wage to \$9.00 per hour means an aggregate of \$64 million in additional wages paid out over the next two years to low-income households, households that, by necessity spend every dollar they earn.
- Higher minimum wages can improve worker productivity and reduce costly turnover.
- The most reliable and recent research shows that prior minimum wage increases have not led to job losses.

The public agrees: the time to raise the minimum wage is now.

- Poll after poll shows widespread support among the public for an increase in the minimum wage.
- Public Policy Polling results released January 15, 2014, found 60% of NH voters support increasing minimum wage to \$10/hour, with only 29% opposed.
- The November 2013 Gallup poll found Americans support an increase to \$9/hr by a margin of 76 to 22 percent.

Inflation has dramatically reduced the true value of New Hampshire's minimum wage over the last several decades.

- In 1979, one hour of work at New Hampshire's minimum wage could purchase the equivalent of \$9.47 in today's dollars. In other words, inflation has eaten away more than \$2 per hour in purchasing power in the last thirty five years.
- If we don't act, the purchasing power of New Hampshire's minimum wage will fall by another 75 cents per hour by the end of the decade.

HB 1403 would produce a modest, gradual, and sustained increase in New Hampshire's minimum wage

- HB 1403 would bring NH's minimum wage to \$9.00 per hour by 2016 and provide for annual cost of living adjustments each year after that.