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Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2019 4:01 AM
To: LABTestimony
Subject: No on HB 5004

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5004 should not become law. Raising the minimum wage is unfair to the people it supposedly will help.

I earned the minimum wage during the 7 1/2 years I worked retail or a small amount more thanks to fractional raises. Yes, while it was nice to get "raises", because of minimum wage hikes which occurred between 2010 and 2018, I watched prices go up and hours go down on the schedule. I never looked at this job as permanent.

The minimum wage is sold as though those who earn it and work the jobs that pay it, are worth more than the job they work. Raising the minimum wage encourages people not to want better for themselves and to accept a potential lousy, work situation. A person may want to move out of a rough neighborhood in a tenement or apartment and get a small house. Raising the minimum wage steals that away because people may struggle to remain employed and retain the same number of hours they have worked before a wage hike.

Unfortunately though, many people are given the impression by raising the minimum wage their lives will be better. They won't. Poor people are struggling enough and will have to pay more for what they need and want. \$15 has taken away jobs in other states and replaced those workers with computers and other automation. The irony is those who promote the minimum wage preside over districts that are keeping poor people, poor. This is wrong and should not be allowed to continue to happen.

I recognize this desire to put people out of work and onto government assistance in order to increase Democrat voter rolls. If your ideas are popular and great, then people would be voting Democrat. They aren't because the policies and a \$15 min wage is nothing more than a punishment to poor people and despite any attempts to change how benefits are calculated in order to stop poor people from figuring out the truth, people don't like being punished and made to accept mediocrity and less money simply so Democrats can continue to live a lie.

Feel good is a waste and people don't want this and will see through this ultimately even if it doesn't happen initially.

Thank you.