

Anderson, Bryan

From: Matt Mazur <mtmazur@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2019 2:37 PM
To: LABTestimony
Subject: Minimum Wage

I am writing today to express my concern over the impact increasing the Minimum Wage will have business and employees, large and small. While people earning more money is normally considered a good thing, artificially increases wages above the market values has shown to have the opposite effects of increased income for effected employees. As recently as this week The Guardian reported how Amazon's subsidiary, Whole Foods raised the minimum wage to \$15/hr resulted in cuts us up to 10 hours a week for employees, sometimes resulting in LESS take home pay than before the increase.

In NYC, where minimum wages were increased the restaurant industry ins on the path to have the biggest decline in employment since 9/11, with a 75% of NYC restaurants reporting they will reduce hours and 50% reporting the will reduce staffing. Additionally prices have risen, in some cases dinners that once cost \$28-28 now cost in excess of \$32 while other menu items increasing by \$.50-\$1.00. The increased cost of eating out will inevitable lead to fewer patrons and fewer jobs. At fast food/quick service restaurants, these increases have and will lead to additional use of kiosks and automation to replace employees. The same scenario has played out in places like Seattle as well.

In FL, a amendment has been proposed to increase the minimum wage as well. Based on a survey of business owners/managers, nearly 1/3 of business report they may be forced to close, with 18% saying it is very likely. For the one what remain open, over 50% will scale back, including layoffs and cut hours to remaining employees. Approximately 1/3 will only hire employees with experience or increase automation, further hurting people seeking a first-time job to gain experience.

What CT needs is not a minimum wage increase for low-skill jobs but a push to increase opportunities by lowering taxes, decreasing regulations, etc. to attract employers who will offer skilled jobs that will pay a good wage and programs and incentives for people to learn more skills to better themselves to fill these good paying jobs and use the fast-food job as a stepping stone to a good career.

Sincerely,
Matt Mazur
Enfield, CT

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