

Raise the Minimum Wage Now!

Rally and Lobby Day in Harrisburg

Monday, June 5, 2006

Rally 1:30 PM Capitol Rotunda

Lobby Check in Table near Capitol Cafeteria in Lower Rotunda

- The minimum wage has not been raised in 9 years.
- 21 states have already raised their minimum wage including the surrounding states of NJ, NY, MD, DE and WV. Why is PA not on this list?
- The PA House voted to increase the minimum wage to \$7.15/ hour by a vote of 146-50.
- The Senate leadership has refused to allow a vote in 9 years on minimum wage. There are enough votes to pass a \$7.15 minimum wage if a vote is allowed.
- Its time to stop the gridlock and allow a vote so Pennsylvania's working poor can get a raise.

All workers deserve a living wage!

For more information contact the Raise the Minimum Wage Coalition 1201 Chestnut St. Room 702 Philadelphia PA 19107, 215-557-0822 www.Philaup.org

Facts On Raising The Minimum Wage

- The \$5.15 per hour minimum wage **has not been raised since 1997.**
- **21 states**, including **New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia and New York**, have raised their minimum wages due to inaction by the US Congress. Over half of the nation's populations live in these states.
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- HB 257 passed the House of Representatives on April 5, 2006 by a vote of 145-50. It will raise the state minimum wage to \$6.25 on July 1, 2006 and \$7.15 July 1, 2007.
- The Raise the Minimum Wage Coalition and others in Harrisburg have been campaigning to increase the wage to \$7.15 per hour, but the Senate has refused to allow a vote for nine years. **Senate Majority leader Chip Brightbill has refused to allow legislation to come to the floor for years.**
- 427,000 PA workers would benefit directly from an increase in the minimum wage to \$7.15 per hour. Only 181,000 would be helped by an increase to \$6.25.
- Dropping the increase to \$6.25 per hour means that **58% of the workers who would have benefited from an increase to \$7.15 would not be covered by the amended bill.**
- **Raising the minimum wage does not cost jobs.** States that had raised their minimum wages had more job growth in small business than states with a \$5.15 minimum wage in the period of 1998-2003. Even retail employment grew more in higher minimum wage states. A detailed study of New Jersey after their minimum wage increase in the early 1990s showed the increase had no effect on total employment in the state.
- **Adults, women (especially single mothers), senior citizens, rural workers, African Americans and Latinos** make up a disproportionate number of minimum wage workers. These groups would benefit the most from a raise in the minimum wage.
- A full-time minimum wage worker would earn over \$4,000 more per year as a result of an increase of the minimum wage to \$7.15 per hour.
- Legislation should be coming to the Senate floor for a vote. **Contact your** Senators and tell them to support \$7.15 per hour and to demand Senator Brightbill schedule a vote.

Pennsylvania workers need an increased minimum wage NOW!

Sources: Economic Policy Institute, Keystone Research Center, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

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