

Dear Committee Members,

I am extremely concerned about Senate Bill 1532 for many reasons. I am an employee and a small business owner, so I offer my opinions in fact not from talking points created by opponents of the bill.

My full time day job is with a staffing agency, we have many customers who operate small businesses. Every single one of the customers I have spoken with are scared of this minimum wage increase. Several already do not draw a paycheck and will be in the red once they are forced to pay the wages this bill requires. One such business is an exporter (the best kind of business as it brings in money from outside our borders and increases our economy rather than simply moving money from one hand to another within our economy), they have only recently begun to make a profit and already pay their employees above minimum wage. This company will cease to exist, in Oregon, with the passage of this mandate. I have many more examples (including my own business which I will close) of damage and as a result, an increase in unemployment this bill will create.

When it was decided that we should hold annual legislative sessions, it was understood that the mini session, like we are in currently, would be focused on administrative functions such as cleaning up laws that need adjustments. Not on creating new laws. Also, I'm very concerned about this bill being written with an emergency clause. The need to prevent the voters from deciding on this is just plain scary and creates more doubt in legislative leadership. As I'm sure you know when a people doubts there leaders there is fear which eventually leads to chaos.

Additionally, I know many people are fixed incomes such as social security. This will, very simply put, hurt them dramatically. Those businesses that can increase prices to offset the increased cost of business will do so and will pass this on to the consumers. The very few that live on fixed incomes and have a little money remaining each month will less with these increased prices.

One more, and maybe the most concerning, issue is our youth. It's been proven by study after study that the number one indicator of lifelong earnings is, working during teen years. I am honestly frightened by the lack of opportunities our youth have to work now. This bill will most certainly erase many of those jobs once occupied by young people. It is said that "youth are our future" and if our future never has an opportunity to learn how to work, how will they survive in the workforce when they are adults? How will our state survive?

When will this stop? How much is enough for minimum wage? When did we decide minimum wage was supposed to be a living wage? These questions are not meant to be flippant, I am deeply concerned that we will continue to increase minimum wage until everyone gets exactly

the same and there is zero incentive to work hard and learn a craft or job well enough to be desired by those that employ us.

Please take my points under serious consideration and vote no on Senate Bill 1532.

Respectfully,

Dean A. Craig

Molalla, Oregon

P.S. There really is a better way but it will take a lot of work. I'd be more than happy to discuss my idea with you and your colleagues, if you'd care to hear a very viable plan.