

Dear, Senator Winters

My name is Anthony J. Gilgan. I reside in Salem Oregon and attend school as a sophomore at South Salem High School. Last summer I worked my first job (at minimum wage) harvesting grass seed and wheat for Bashaw Land and Seed LLC in Harrisburg OR. Through hard work I proved to my employer I am worth more than \$9.25 an hour, and will be returning to Harrisburg next summer to work at a significantly higher pay.

It has come to my attention the proposed minimum wage increase will be damaging to entry level employees like myself, as well as to Oregon's overall economy. The first and most important issue I noticed with increasing minimum wage is that only large corporations will be able to survive and adapt to increased labor costs, as they are capable of purchasing equipment and technology to reduce the amount of labor needed to produce goods/provide services. Small businesses will have to raise costs of their product/service which would reduce their customer base and contribute to inflation.

For the large corporations that decide they can't afford higher labor costs the clearest alternative would be to simply move out of Oregon into states that are more business friendly. This would obviously hurt Oregon's economy and remove job opportunities for low and high skilled workers alike. The goal of increasing minimum wage is to help the poor and underprivileged, but how can higher wages help if the jobs available to them move out of state?

Having said that, I do think we are obligated as a people to help bring the lower class up into a higher quality living by providing opportunities for them. These opportunities would include one on one tutoring and help for kids in poverty struggling with school, and programs that would give incentives to small businesses that choose to pay low skill/entry level workers more than minimum wage.

I believe it is important legislators and businesses come to a compromise about how to help the poor/underprivileged without increasing the minimum wage, so I ask you to at least recommend a suspension of Senate Bill 1532.

With respect and gratitude- Anthony J. Gilgan

From the Desk of
Senator Ted Ferrioli