

Hard Work, Unfair Pay

The Conservative Fight Against
Increasing The Minimum Wage



Introduction

With the upper echelons of society taking home increasingly huge portions of the nation's wealth, the country's lowest-wage workers – the burger flippers and cashiers who are as integral to the American fabric as Wall Street's CEOs – are increasingly being pushed into poverty by an economy that's not working for them.

President Obama's push to address this growing problem, in part by raising the minimum wage, is drawing the usual howls from conservatives eager to use his every policy initiative for political gain – even if it means trashing low-wage workers who have been left behind and misrepresenting the economic realities they face.

Congress's failure to keep the minimum wage on par with inflation means that affected workers now take home pay lower than they did in 1968. Currently, full-time minimum-wage work is worth just over \$15,000 a year, an amount too paltry to keep a family of four – or three, or even two – above the poverty line. But eroding take-home pay has less to do with workers' actual value than an economy rigged in favor of those who command economic and political power.

Despite the common mischaracterizations, most minimum-wage workers are adults who are their families' primary earners, not just teenagers looking to make an extra buck, and they tend to be more educated than they were in the past. Yet rather than crafting policy that rewards hard work with basic economic security, Republicans are content to perpetuate myths about workers' ages, abilities, and ambition.

Although a number of Republicans supported the most recent minimum wage increase in 2007, this time around the Tea Party crowd and a host of Republican governors are setting themselves up as roadblocks to economic opportunity. Disregarding the economists who advise in favor of a higher minimum wage and the studies that show fears of job losses to be unfounded, some of the top Tea Party Republicans in Congress even want to go so far as to abolish the minimum wage. Meanwhile, groups representing the interests of big business, often funded by wealthy conservatives who stand to benefit from the elimination of worker protections, are fueling the right-wing opposition.

Following President Obama's call for increasing the minimum wage in his State of the Union address last night, it is now up to Republicans in Congress to decide if they are going to join him in helping hardworking Americans or stand with the Tea Party fanatics and special interests who want to block it.

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The Economic Case For Increasing The Minimum Wage

THE DECLINING VALUE OF THE MINIMUM WAGE

In Real Dollars, The Minimum Wage Is Lower Than In 1968

EPI: Inflation Erodes The Value Of Minimum Wage Workers' Paychecks Even If They Remain Nominally The Same. According to the Economic Policy Institute, "Every year that the minimum wage remains the same in nominal dollars, inflation slowly erodes its real (i.e., inflation-adjusted) value, leaving minimum-wage workers with a paycheck that cannot buy as much as it did in years past. This, of course, threatens the material well-being of minimum-wage workers in low-income families who rely on every dollar of income just to afford basic necessities." [Economic Policy Institute, [12/19/13](#)]

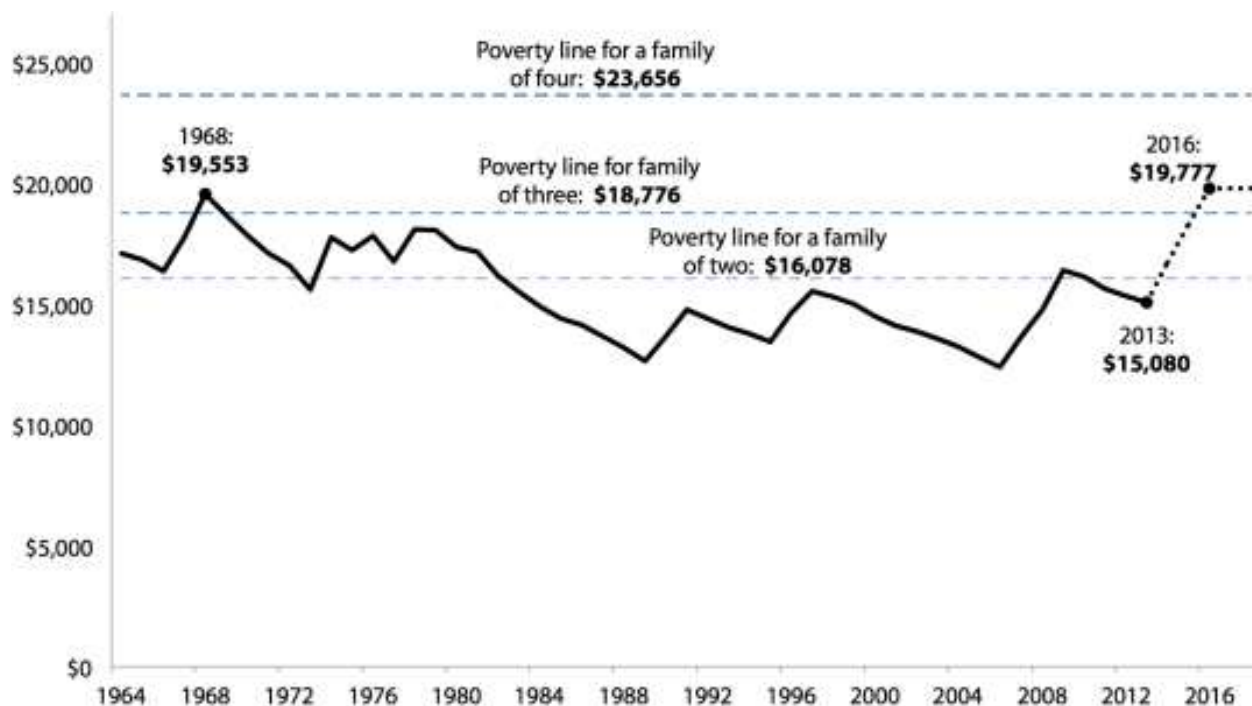
Although The Minimum Wage Has Gone Up In Nominal Dollars, Diminished Purchasing Power Amounts To Lower Pay. According to the New Yorker, "The first statement we can make without fear of contradiction is that, at \$7.25 an hour, the current minimum wage is pretty low. In nominal dollars, it's gone up quite a bit over the past twenty-five years. In 1978, it was \$2.65; in 1991, it was \$4.25. But these figures don't take into account rising prices, which eat away at purchasing power. After adjusting for inflation, the minimum wage is about \$3.30 *less* than it was in 1968. Back then—forty-five years ago—the minimum wage was \$10.56 an hour, according to a very useful chart from CNNMoney." [New Yorker, [2/14/13](#)]

Initially, The Minimum Wage Hovered Around Half The Average Worker Wage, But It Has Fallen To 37 Percent. According to the Economic Policy Institute, "The minimum wage was first enacted in 1938 to ensure that even the lowest-paid workers would still receive an adequate level of pay. Through the '60s and '70s, Congress made regular increases that kept the minimum wage equal to roughly half the average wage of production workers. At its peak in 1968, the minimum wage was close to \$10 per hour in today's dollars. Yet after decades of delayed and inadequate increases, today's minimum wage of \$7.25 is about 37 percent of the average wage. We have let the lowest-paid workers fall considerably behind." [Economic Policy Institute, [5/15/13](#)]

Raising Minimum Wage To \$10.10 Would Still Leave Workers With Lower Earning Power Than In 1968. According to the National Journal, "Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., and Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, both longtime champions of increasing the minimum wage, have a bill to raise it nationally to \$10.10—still leaving the earning power lower than it was in 1968 when the minimum wage was \$1.60." [National Journal, [12/4/13](#)]

The Minimum Wage And Poverty

Since The 1980s, Minimum Wage Generally Has Not Been Sufficient To Keep A Family Of Two Or More Above The Poverty Line. According to the Economic Policy Institute, the following chart shows “Annual minimum-wage earnings and poverty line for families of two to four, 1964–2013 and projected for 2013–2016 under proposal to raise the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 by 2016 (2013 dollars)”:



[Economic Policy Institute, [12/19/13](#)]

Low-Wage Workers Often Rely On Food Stamps And Other Services To Supplement Their Incomes. According to The Atlantic, “Close to 60% of all jobs created since the bottom of the recession--and most of the jobs projected to be created in the next decade--are low-wage occupations like these. Workers often rely on food stamps, the earned income tax credit and other means-tested programs -- often threatened to be cut -- not because they don't work hard enough but because their earnings are pitifully low. And while these workers strive to save, it is plainly impossible for them to save enough to finance their retirement, or manage the ever-escalating cost of college for themselves or their children.” [The Atlantic, [1/9/13](#)]

- 73 Percent Of Major Benefits Program Enrollees Come From Working Families.** According to a report out of the UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education, “Nearly three-quarters (73 percent) of enrollments in America's major public benefits programs are from working families. But many of them work in jobs that pay wages so low that their paychecks do not generate enough income to provide for life's basic necessities.” [Fast Food, Poverty Wages: The Public Cost of Low-Wage Jobs in the Fast-Food Industry by Sylvia Allegretto, et al, [10/15/13](#)]

- **Almost Two-Thirds Of Public Benefits Spending Goes To Working Families.** According to a report out of the UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education, “This report documents that nearly two-thirds (63 percent) of public benefits spending goes to working families—i.e., families with a working member. With jobs that put their earnings below subsistence needs, our measurements indicate these families must rely on Medicaid, food stamps, the Earned Income Tax Credit and other support to provide the food, shelter and health care for which their jobs alone will not pay.” [Fast Food, Poverty Wages: The Public Cost of Low-Wage Jobs in the Fast-Food Industry by Sylvia Allegretto, et al, [10/15/13](#)]
- **Families Of American Fast Food Workers Use \$7 Billion In Public Services Per Year.** According to Businessweek, “Two studies released today make some different calculations to determine the total cost to American taxpayers of a large, low-wage workforce. It comes to an average of \$7 billion a year. That’s the amount of annual public assistance families of fast-food workers received between 2007 and 2011, according to a new report written by economist Sylvia Allegretto and others, sponsored by the University of California at Berkeley’s Labor Center and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and funded by Fast Food Forward, the group that helped organize the summer’s labor strikes. [...] Overall, 52 percent of families of fast-food workers are enrolled in one or more public assistance programs, compared with 25 percent of the workforce as a whole. Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program accounted for nearly \$4 billion of the \$7 billion figure. The Earned Income Tax Credit, food stamps, and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program accounted for the rest.” [Businessweek, [10/15/13](#)]

Raising Minimum Wage To \$9 Per Hour Would Bump A Family Of Three Above Poverty Line. According to the New Yorker, “For somebody who works a forty-hour week, and earns the minimum wage of \$7.25, setting the rate at nine dollars would increase his or her annual salary from \$15,080 to \$18,720, which would be enough to push the person’s work income above the poverty threshold for a family of three.” [New Yorker, [2/14/13](#)]

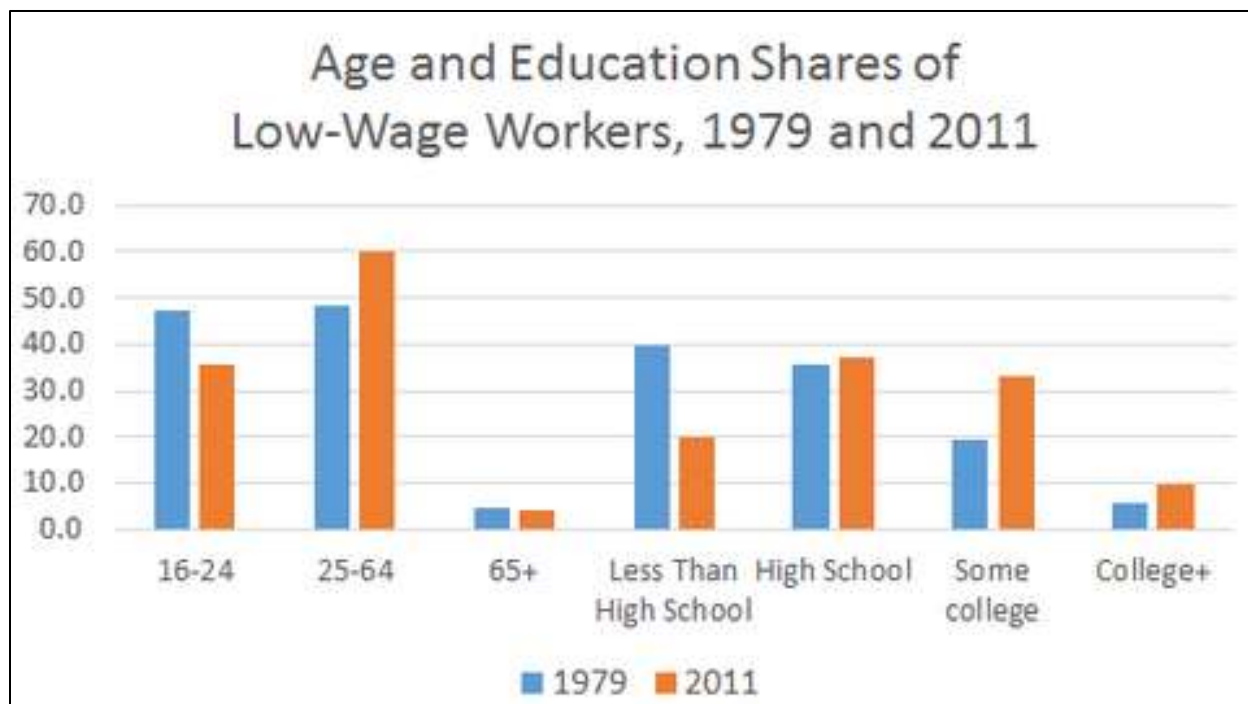
Study: \$10.10 Minimum Wage Would Lift Millions Out Of Poverty. According to Michael Hiltzik of the Los Angeles Times, “A study by Arindrajit Dube of the University of Massachusetts concluded that the 39% increase in the federal minimum wage proposed by Harkin and Miller would immediately reduce the poverty rate among America’s nonelderly population by 1.7 percentage points. Over time, the reduction would be 2.5 points. That’s 4.6 million people lifted out of poverty immediately, and 6.8 million over time.” [Los Angeles Times, [1/13/14](#)]

Low Minimum Wages Don’t Reflect Workers’ Value

Wages Have Stagnated Despite Increased Productivity And Growth In The Economy. According to the Economic Policy Institute, “It is important to also recognize that today’s minimum wage has not fallen to exceptional lows out of economic necessity. Over the past 45 years, the U.S. economy has vastly expanded, and productivity (our ability to produce goods and services for the same amount of work) has more than doubled. Yet the minimum wage—our agreed-upon standard for the minimum amount a worker in our society should be paid—has been left to stagnate and decline.” [Economic Policy Institute, [12/19/13](#)]

Owner Profits Have Increased While Worker Wages Have Not Kept Pace With Rising Productivity. According to Aspen Institute executive vice president Elliot Gerson, “Some argue that if only workers were more productive and more skilled, their earnings would go up. But our workforce is considerably more productive and skilled than it was 40 years ago with little gain in middle- or lower-income wages to show for it. Prior to the 1970s, worker compensation and productivity grew at about the same pace, but over the past three decades, compensation growth has been far slower than worker productivity growth. Hard work and productivity had added far more profit to owners than it has created wage growth for workers. Median wages in 2011 would have been \$27.87 if compensation had increased in line with worker productivity growth. Instead median wages in 2011 were \$16.07.” [Elliot Gerson via The Atlantic, [1/9/13](#)]

As Of 2011, Low-Wage Workers Are Older And More Educated Than They Were In 1979. According to Center on Budget and Policy Priorities economist Jared Bernstein, “Often, in our national debate on inequality and real income stagnation, the locus of the problem is placed on the workers: they’re not skilled enough to meet employers’ demands, and their low wages reflect the limited value they add to output. [...] If you believe that, then you’ve no one but yourself to blame for your skinny paycheck. But thankfully, few believe it. That’s not to say that there’s no role for ‘value added’ in compensation. Of course there is. But it is one of many factors. One way to see this is to recognize that low-wage workers have become older and have achieved higher levels of education over time. The figure below shows the share of low-wage workers in 1979 and 2011. Fewer are teenagers or young adults, more are non-elderly adults, and more have at least some college education”:



[Jared Bernstein via New York Times’ Economix blog, [12/4/13](#)]

THE MINIMUM WAGE AND INCOME INEQUALITY

Lower Real Minimum Wage Has Contributed To Growing Income Inequality. According to the Economic Policy Institute, “The declining real value of the minimum wage has also significantly contributed to the enormous growth in U.S. income inequality (Mishel 2013). The gap between the minimum wage and the average wage of typical American workers used to be much smaller than it is today.” [Economic Policy Institute, [12/19/13](#)]

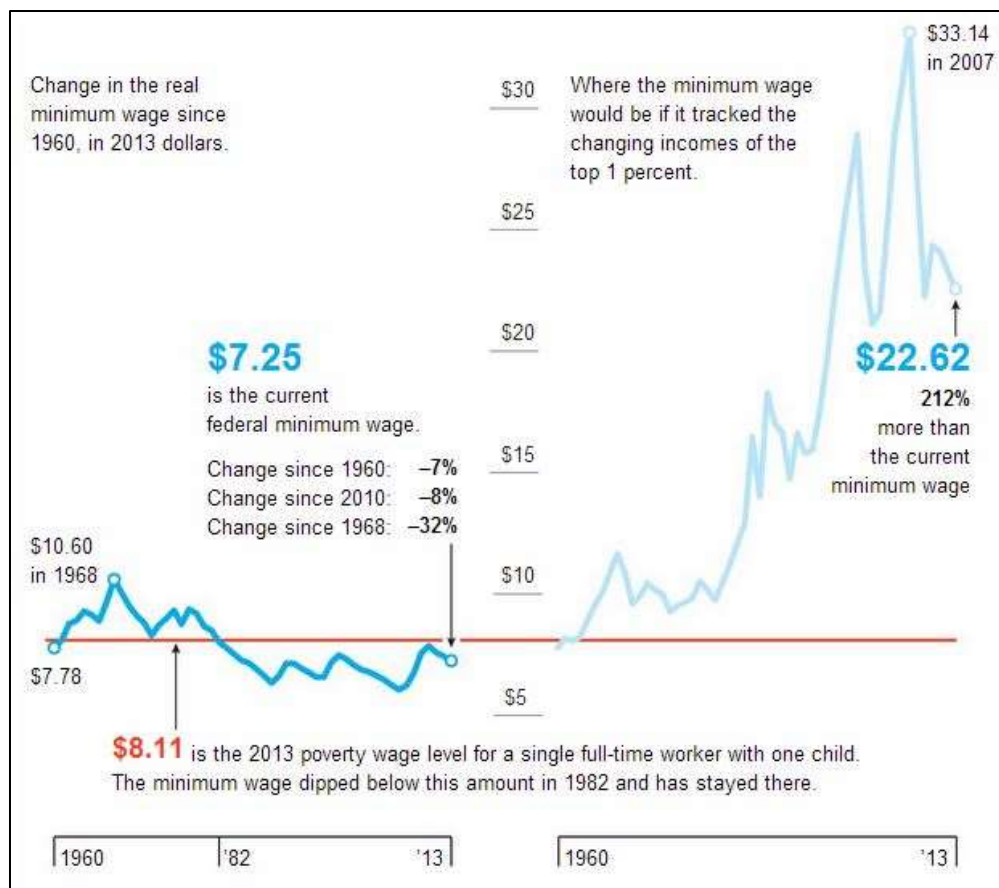
Full-Time Work At \$7.25 Minimum Wage Amounts To An Annual Income Of Just Over \$15,000. According to National Journal, “[N]o one with a family working full-time at the minimum wage can possibly survive without major assistance. Keep in mind that if one works 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year at \$7.25 an hour, that means an annual income of \$15,080—assuming no time off and no sick days. Can any of us imagine trying to house, clothe, and feed a family—while paying for transportation to work, health insurance, and other necessities of life, much less going to an occasional movie—on \$15,080 a year, or \$13,926 after FICA deductions?” [National Journal, [12/4/13](#)]

- **Low-Wage Workers Are Not, By And Large, “Secondary Earners.”** According to the Economic Policy Institute, “Low- and minimum-wage workers are often dismissed as ‘secondary earners,’ implying that the income earned by these workers is primarily discretionary income, unessential to their family’s well-being. This is patently false: The workers who would be affected by increasing the minimum wage to \$10.10 earn, on average, 50 percent of their family’s total income.” [Economic Policy Institute, [12/19/13](#)]

In 2012, Top 1 Percent Had Incomes Of \$394,000 And Above. According to the Associated Press, “The top 1 percent of American households had pretax income above \$394,000 last year. The top 10 percent had income exceeding \$114,000. The income figures include wages, pension payments, dividends and capital gains from the sale of stocks and other assets. They do not include so-called transfer payments from government programs such as unemployment benefits and Social Security.” [Associated Press, [9/10/13](#)]

- **Top 1 Percent Of Americans Earned Over 19 Percent Of Country’s Income In 2012.** According to the Associated Press, “The gulf between the richest 1 percent and the rest of America is the widest it’s been since the Roaring ‘20s. The very wealthiest Americans earned more than 19 percent of the country’s household income last year — their biggest share since 1928, the year before the stock market crash. And the top 10 percent captured a record 48.2 percent of total earnings last year.” [Associated Press, [9/10/13](#)]
- **Top 1 Percent Saw 20 Percent Income Gains While The Rest Saw Just A 1 Percent Increase In 2012.** According to the Associated Press, “In 2012, the incomes of the top 1 percent rose nearly 20 percent compared with a 1 percent increase for the remaining 99 percent.” [Associated Press, [9/10/13](#)]

If Minimum Wage Growth Had Kept Up With Income Growth Of The Top 1 Percent It Would Be \$22.62. According to the New York Times:



[New York Times, [11/30/13](#)]

RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE WOULD BE GOOD FOR THE ECONOMY

EPI: Raising Minimum Wage Would Grow GDP And Create Jobs. According to the Economic Policy Institute, “Across the phase-in period of the increase [in the Harkin-Miller proposal], GDP would grow by about \$22 billion, resulting in the creation of roughly 85,000 net new jobs over that period.” [Economic Policy Institute, [12/19/13](#)]

- Raising The Minimum Wage Can Boost Economic Activity By Putting Money In Hands Of People Who Need To Spend It.** According to the Economic Policy Institute, “Economists generally agree that low-wage workers are more likely than any other income group to spend any additional earnings they receive, largely because they must in order to meet their basic needs. Higher-income individuals, corporations, and beneficiaries of corporate profits are more likely to save at least a portion of any additional income. Thus, in a period of depressed consumer demand, raising the minimum wage can provide a modest

boost to overall economic activity because it shifts income to workers who are very likely to spend it immediately. Indeed, recent research from the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago finds that raising the federal minimum wage to \$10 could increase U.S. GDP by up to 0.3 percentage points in the near term.” [Economic Policy Institute, [12/19/13](#)]

Evidence Supports The Idea That Higher Wages Make Workers More Productive.

According to Dean Baker and John Schmitt of the Center for Economic and Policy Research, “Employers not only care about the wages they pay, they also care about workers’ productivity, and the rise in the pay by itself may cause workers to be more productive. There are two reasons why this could be true. The first is simply that workers may feel better about their jobs and take them more seriously if they are paid a higher wage. In effect, the higher minimum wage will make the workers getting paid the minimum better workers. Economists call this effect an ‘efficiency wage’ and there is a substantial body of empirical research to support it. The other way in which a minimum-wage hike could increase productivity is by reducing turnover. Turnover imposes substantial costs even for the least skilled positions. It requires managers’ time to review applications and interview applicants. In addition, once a new worker is hired, they will require some on-the-job training and supervision. If a higher minimum wage persuades workers to stay at their job longer, many employers will more than offset the higher wage costs by reduced turnover costs. Recent research has demonstrated just this kind of strong connection between a higher minimum wage and lower turnover.” [Dean Baker and John Schmitt via Salon, [1/4/12](#)]

75 Economists, Including Seven Nobel Winners, Signed Onto A Letter Supporting A Minimum Wage Hike. According to CNNMoney, “A Democratic proposal to raise the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour got the backing Tuesday of 75 leading economists. The group includes seven Nobel laureates, among them Joseph Stiglitz and Peter Diamond, and several former Obama and Clinton administration economists. They lent their support to legislation known as the Fair Minimum Wage Act, introduced in the House by Rep. George Miller and in the Senate by Sen. Tom Harkin.” [CNNMoney, [1/14/14](#)]

- **Economists: Minimum Wage Increase “Would Provide A Much-Needed Boost To The Earnings Of Low-Wage Workers.”** According to Businessweek, “Says the letter: ‘At a time when persistent high unemployment is putting enormous downward pressure on wages, such a minimum-wage increase would provide a much-needed boost to the earnings of low-wage workers.’” [Businessweek, [1/14/14](#)]

Raising The Minimum Wage Would Aid Tens Of Millions Of Mostly Adult Workers

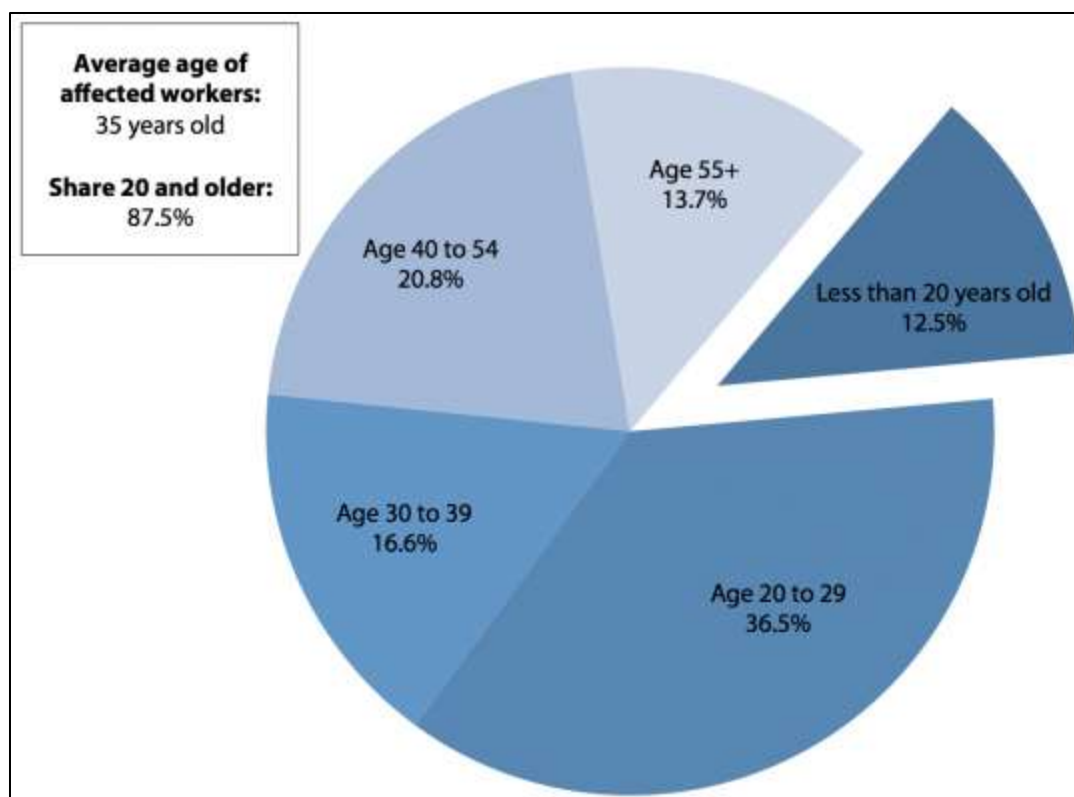
Close To 20 Million People Would Directly Benefit From Raising The Minimum Wage To \$10.10, And A “Ripple Effect” Could Mean Higher Pay For All Hourly Workers. According to CNNMoney, “A higher minimum wage could increase the pay not only for the 1.6 million workers who earn \$7.25 today, but an estimated 17 million workers who make between \$7.25 and \$10.10. In selling the idea of a higher minimum, though, advocates also say it could result in raises for hourly workers across the board in what’s known as the ‘ripple’ effect. In other words, employers may want to preserve their relative pay scales, so may raise other hourly workers’ pay by an amount commensurate with the minimum wage hike.” [CNNMoney, [1/15/14](#)]

EPI: Boosting Minimum Wage To \$10.10 Would Raise Wages Of Almost 28 Million Workers. According to the Economic Policy Institute, “Earlier this year, EPI released an analysis of

the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2013, a bill introduced by Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) and Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.) that would raise the federal minimum wage in three incremental increases of \$0.95 from its current level of \$7.25 per hour to \$10.10 per hour (see Cooper and Hall 2013). The Harkin-Miller proposal would then index the minimum wage to inflation, so that as prices rise in subsequent years, the minimum would automatically be adjusted to preserve its real value. [...] An increase to \$10.10 would either directly or indirectly raise the wages of 27.8 million workers, who would receive about \$35 billion in additional wages over the phase-in period.” [Economic Policy Institute, [12/19/13](#)]

Minimum Wage Bump Would Primarily Help Workers Over Age 20. According to the New Yorker, “There is no truth in the suggestion that most of the beneficiaries would be high-school kids working at McDonalds on weekends for beer money. A study that the Employment Policy Institute published last summer said nearly nine out of ten workers who would benefit from a rise in the minimum wage are at least twenty years old. More than half of them work full time; over a third are married; more than a quarter are parents. More women than men would be among them: about fifty-five per cent of minimum-wage workers are female. In addition, most of the beneficiaries would be Caucasian. According to the E.P.I.’s tabulations, 56.1 per cent of those affected would be non-Hispanic white workers, 23.6 per cent would be Hispanic, 14.2 per cent would be black, and 6.1 per cent would be Asian or another race.” [New Yorker, [2/14/13](#)]

Average Age Of Workers Aided By Minimum Wage Hike Is 35. According to the Economic Policy Institute, the following chart shows the “Age of workers affected by raising the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 by July 2016”:



[Economic Policy Institute, [12/19/13](#)]

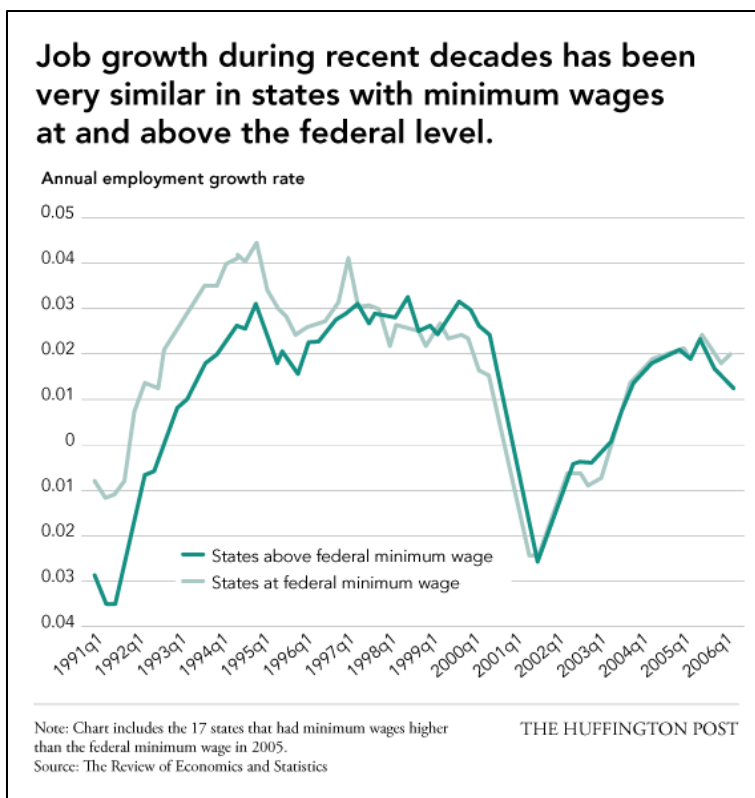
The Minimum Wage And The Unemployment Rate

New Yorker: “There Is No Obvious Link Between The Minimum Wage And The Unemployment Rate.” According to the New Yorker, “A second important and (largely) undisputed finding is that there is no obvious link between the minimum wage and the unemployment rate. During the nineteen sixties, when the minimum wage was raised sharply, unemployment rates were sharply lower than they were in the nineteen eighties, when the real value of the minimum wage fell dramatically. If you look across the states, some of which set a minimum wage above the federal minimum, you can’t see any sign of higher rates leading to higher unemployment. [...] What these figures tell us is that other factors, such as the overall state of the economy and how local industries are doing, matter a lot more for employment than the level of the minimum wage does.” [New Yorker, [2/14/13](#)]

- **Studies Show That “Minimum-Wage Laws Just Don’t Seem To Affect Employment Very Much.”** According to the New Yorker, “Even in academic studies that do show higher minimum wages having a negative impact on employment, the effect is generally a small one, and it is usually confined to teen-agers and unskilled workers. As is—or as should be—well known, there are also a number of studies that show minimum-wage laws having no effect at all on employment, and even some studies showing a small positive effect. Since Berkeley’s David Card and Princeton’s Alan Krueger (who is now chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors) carried out their famous survey of New Jersey fast-food restaurants, two decades ago, and a found a slight increase in employment following a rise in the minimum wage, an enormous amount of effort has been put into discrediting their results, which many orthodox economists saw as a violation of fundamental economic laws. (If the price goes up, the quantity demanded must fall!) But this effort has largely failed. For whatever reason, minimum-wage laws just don’t seem to affect employment very much. This finding applies not just to studies carried out in the United States but to those done in the United Kingdom, Australia, and other countries, too.” [New Yorker, [2/14/13](#)]

Nobel-Winning Economists: “The Weight Of The Evidence” Shows Minimum Wage Increases Don’t Adversely Impact Employment. According to Businessweek, “But seven Nobel prize-winning economists and eight former presidents of the American Economic Association have signed a new letter, released today, urging Congress to raise the federal minimum from its current level of \$7.25 an hour to \$10.10 by 2016. [...] Addressing the concern that employers would lay off their least-productive workers rather than raise their pay, the letter says, ‘the weight of evidence now show[s] that increases in the minimum wage have had little or no negative effect on the employment of minimum-wage workers, even during times of weakness in the labor market.’ It goes on to say that ‘a minimum-wage increase could have a small stimulative effect on the economy as low-wage workers spend their additional earnings, raising demand and job growth, and providing some help on the jobs front.’” [Businessweek, [1/14/14](#)]

States With Minimum Wages Above The Federal Level Follow Similar Job Growth Pattern As States At The Federal Minimum. According to the Huffington Post:



[Huffington Post, [1/14/14](#)]

Study Shows Different Minimum Wage Laws In Adjacent Counties Have No Effect On Employment. According to Slate, “For a much more persuasive run of the basic argument you really want to read Arindrajit Dube, T. William Lester, and Michael Reich ‘Minimum Wage Effects Across State Borders: Estimates Using Contiguous Counties’ which is able to take advantage of a much larger dataset. The basic method is that since some counties are adjacent to counties that are located in different states, we can take advantage of variation in state minimum wage laws to assess the employment impact. The finding is that there's zero employment impact within the actually occurring range of variation (this does not rule out, obviously, that a \$50 minimum wage would cause job losses).” [Slate, [2/13/13](#)]

Many Congressional Republicans Previously Supported Raising The Minimum Wage

The Fair Minimum Wage Act Of 2007 Passed With Bipartisan Support In The House And In The Senate. According to the House Clerk’s website, the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007

passed the House with “Aye” votes from 82 Republicans and 233 Democrats. According to the Senate’s website, the bill passed the Senate with “Yea” votes from 45 Republicans, 47 Democrats, and 2 Independents. [H.R. 2, Vote #18, [1/10/07](#); H.R. 2, Vote #42, [2/1/07](#)]

REP. LAMAR SMITH (R-TX)

Rep. Lamar Smith: “Any Person Who Engages In Honest Labor Deserves A Worthy Wage And A Dignified Life.” According to The Dallas Morning News, “Three Texas Republicans broke party ranks by voting for the minimum wage increase on Wednesday: Reps. Kenny Marchant of Coppell, Lamar Smith of San Antonio and Ted Poe of Humble. [...] Mr. Smith, the top-ranked Republican on the Judiciary Committee, was among the most senior members of his party to side with Democrats on the wage hike. ‘We are confronted with the stark reality that over 1 million families must survive on little more than \$1,000 a month,’ he said in a written statement. ‘These families need food, clothes, housing, transportation and hope. Frankly, any person who engages in honest labor deserves a worthy wage and a dignified life.’” [Dallas Morning News via Lexis Nexis, 1/11/07]

- **Rep. Lamar Smith: Opponents Of Raising The Minimum Wage “Often Do Not Appreciate How Difficult It Is For An Individual To Live On The Minimum Wage.”** According to a column on the minimum wage written by Rep. Lamar Smith on his House website, “As we acknowledge the contributions of working men and women on Labor Day, an issue that is likely to come before Congress is the minimum wage. It is important to have an honest debate based on the facts, which all too often are missing when discussing the need for an increase in the minimum wage. [...] On the other hand, opponents of the minimum wage also omit key facts. They often do not appreciate how difficult it is for an individual to live on the minimum wage. And with housing the largest part of almost every budget, the minimum wage earner usually cannot even afford an efficiency apartment, which has no separate bedroom.” [LamarSmith.House.gov, [8/22/03](#)]

REP. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO (R-WV)

Capito On 2007 Minimum Wage Act: “I Am Proud To Have Supported This Measure To Help The Working Families In West Virginia And Across The Country.” According to a press release issued by Rep. Shelley Moore Capito, “Rep. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) today voted to increase the federal minimum wage to \$7.25 per hour. [...] ‘It has been nearly ten years since Congress approved an increase in the minimum wage. This pay raise for lower-income workers is long overdue, and I am proud to have supported this measure to help the working families in West Virginia and across the country.’” [Capito Press Release via Lexis Nexis, 1/10/07]

- **In 2006, Capito Said She Voted To Increase The Minimum Wage To “Ensure That No One Who Works A Full Time Job Has To Live In Poverty.”** According to a press release issued by Rep. Shelley Moore Capito, “Rep. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) today voted for legislation to ensure the health benefits of over 11,000 retired West Virginia

miners, provide additional funds to clean up abandoned mine sites across the state, continue efforts to make mines safer, and increase the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25 per hour. ‘This legislation is a real victory for all West Virginians,’ Capito said. ‘From protecting the promised health benefits to retired miners, to working to ensure all mines have the best available safety equipment, to increasing the minimum wage to ensure that no one who works a full time job has to live in poverty; today’s legislation benefits workers and communities across the Mountain State.’ [Capito Press Release via Lexis Nexis, 7/29/06]

- **In 2006, Capito Signed A Letter Urging Speaker Boehner To Schedule A Vote For A “Substantial Increase In The Minimum Wage.”** According to a letter from 26 members of Congress to then-House Majority Leader John Boehner, “We write today to urge you to schedule a vote on legislation which would provide a substantial increase in the minimum wage before the House recesses for the August District Work Period.” Rep. Shelley Moore Capito is among the members who signed the letter. [Letter to Majority Leader Boehner via Archive.org, [7/12/06](#)]

REP. DON YOUNG (R-AK)

Rep. Don Young: “Working Americans Deserve An Increase In Their Minimum Wages. ... I Don’t Believe That An Increase Will Destroy The Small Business Community.” According to a press release from Rep. Don Young (R-AK), “I supported an increase in the federal minimum wage because working Americans deserve an increase in their minimum wages,’ said Congressman Young. ‘I hope that everyone understands that doomsday on both sides of the issue will not occur. I have been through three different minimum wage increases and I have not seen that much of a negative impact to our economy. I don’t believe that an increase will destroy the small business community.’” [Young Press Release, [1/10/07](#)]

REP. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN (R-FL)

Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen: “Working Families Depend On Their Take Home Pay To Make Ends Meet And With Today's High Cost Of Living It Was The Right Thing To Do To Increase The Minimum Wage.” According to a statement released by Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen’s (R-FL) office, “Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen issued the following statement after voting to increase the minimum wage from \$5.15 per hour to \$7.25 during a 26 month period. Ros-Lehtinen has always supported prior increases in the minimum wage. The final vote was 315 to 116: ‘Americas [*sic*] working families depend on their take home pay to make ends meet and with today's high cost of living it was the right thing to do to increase the minimum wage. This decision will have positive repercussions amongst those that need it most and I am proud to once again cast my vote with our families and their well being.’” [Ros-Lehtinen Press Release via LexisNexis, 1/10/07]

REP. MIKE SIMPSON (R-ID)

Rep. Mike Simpson On Supporting A Higher Minimum Wage: “I Just Think It Was The Right Thing To Do. ... As Long As We've Got A Minimum Wage, It Ought To Be A Fair Wage.” According to the Twin Falls Times-News, “Simpson was one of seven Republicans on the powerful House Appropriations Committee who backed a measure boosting the federal minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25 an hour. Republicans are anxious about any effort to lift that wage and its affect [*sic*] on employers who will have to pay more on wages. That could create a drop in some jobs as a result. But Simpson's risk may be attached to the fact that the minimum wage has been untouched since 1997, while inflation and \$3-per-gallon gas prices are steadily out of whack. (And remember, congressional salaries have seen steady jumps in that time period, as well.) ‘I just think it was the right thing to do,’ Simpson said. ‘As long as we've got a minimum wage, it ought to be a fair wage.’” [Twin Falls Times-News via LexisNexis, 6/17/06]

REP. CANDICE MILLER (R-MI)

Rep. Candice Miller: “A Raise In The Federal Minimum Wage Is Long Overdue – It’s Been Nearly 10 Years.” According to a statement released by Rep. Candice Miller’s (R-MI) office, “Rep. Candice Miller today applauded the decision by House Leadership to bring legislation to increase the minimum wage to the House floor. The decision came after Rep. Miller led a group of her Republican colleagues in urging leadership to take action on the issue. ‘A raise in the federal minimum wage is long overdue--it's been nearly 10 years since the last wage hike--which is why I called on House Leadership to hold a vote on the issue,’ Rep. Miller said. ‘With Michigan's struggling economy, the high gas and home heating costs, and an overall increase in cost of living, many families who are on the lower end of the pay scale are struggling to make ends meet. Those who are working so hard to support their families deserve a fair wage.’” [Miller Press Release via LexisNexis, 7/27/06]

REP. FRANK LOBIONDO (R-NJ)

Rep. Frank LoBiondo: “Raising The Federal Minimum Wage Was The Right Thing To Do Last July, And It Is The Right Thing To Do Today For Our Hard-Working Men And Women.” According to a statement released by the office of Rep. Frank LoBiondo (R-NJ), “U.S. Congressman Frank A. LoBiondo (NJ-02), Co-Chair of the Republican Working Group on Labor, today applauded the House-passage of H.R. 2, the ‘Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007,’ which would raise the federal minimum wage from its current \$5.15 per hour level to \$7.25 per hour. LoBiondo, who previously led the successful effort in the House to approve a minimum wage increase only to see it fail by two votes in the Senate, was one of seven Republican co-sponsors of today's legislation offered by the new majority. The final vote was 315 to 116. ‘The House has again voted to help our working families with bipartisan support,’ said LoBiondo. ‘Raising the federal minimum wage was the right thing to do last July, and it is the right thing to do today for our hard-working men and women.’” [LoBiondo Press Release via LexisNexis, 1/10/07]

- **In 2006, LoBiondo Signed A Letter Urging Speaker Boehner To Schedule A Vote For A “Substantial Increase In The Minimum Wage.”** According to a letter from 26 members of Congress to then-House Majority Leader John Boehner, “We write today to urge you to schedule a vote on legislation which would provide a substantial increase in the minimum wage before the House recesses for the August District Work Period.” Rep. Frank LoBiondo is among the members who signed the letter. [Letter to Majority Leader Boehner via Archive.org, [7/12/06](#)]

REP. CHRIS SMITH (R-NJ)

Rep. Chris Smith: “This Is A Well-Deserved And Long-Overdue Raise For The Millions Of American Workers Who Are Now Earning The Current Minimum Wage.” According to a statement released by the office of Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), “Minimum wage workers around the country will receive a long-overdue pay raise if legislation passed by the U.S. House of Representatives today becomes law, U.S. Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) said. “This is a well-deserved and long-overdue raise for the millions of American workers who are now earning the current minimum wage,” said Smith, one of only eight Republicans to cosponsor the legislation. The bill, the ‘Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007,’ would raise the federal minimum wage from \$5.15 an hour to an eventual level of \$7.25 an hour. The \$2.10 increase would come in three phases over a two-year period. The ‘Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007’ passed the House by a vote of 315-116.” [Smith Press Release, [1/10/07](#)]

- **In A Press Release, Smith Noted He Had “Supported Increases To The Federal Minimum Wage Since Coming To Congress.”** According to a statement released by the office of Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), “Smith has supported increases to the federal minimum wage since coming to Congress. As far back as 1989, Smith was one of only twenty Republicans who voted to override President George H.W. Bush’s veto of legislation that would have raised the minimum wage. Most recently, Smith voted for a minimum wage increase to the \$7.25 an hour last July. The minimum wage increase passed the House, but that bill was not considered in the Senate before the 109th Congress adjourned.” [Smith Press Release, [1/10/07](#)]
- **In 2006, Smith Signed A Letter Urging Speaker Boehner To Schedule A Vote For A “Substantial Increase In The Minimum Wage.”** According to a letter from 26 members of Congress to then-House Majority Leader John Boehner, “We write today to urge you to schedule a vote on legislation which would provide a substantial increase in the minimum wage before the House recesses for the August District Work Period.” Rep. Chris Smith is among the members who signed the letter. [Letter to Majority Leader Boehner via Archive.org, [7/12/06](#)]

REP. TOM PETRI (R-WI)

Rep. Tom Petri’s Website Notes He “Has Supported Increases In The Minimum Wage.” According to Rep. Tom Petri’s House website, “As a senior member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, Rep. Petri has worked to further strengthen the rights of workers. He

has supported increases in the minimum wage, and in 2008, with Rep. Petri's support, President Bush signed into law the first increase in the minimum wage since 1997.” [Petri.House.gov, accessed [1/15/14](#)]

REP. MICHAEL TURNER (R-OH)

Rep. Turner: “It Is Time For Congress To Consider Increasing The Minimum Wage Because So Many Families Are Struggling To Make Ends Meet.” According to a press release from Rep. Michael R. Turner (R-OH), “Congressman Turner said, “The federal minimum wage has not been increased in over nine years. It is time for Congress to consider increasing the minimum wage because so many families are struggling to make ends meet.” [Turner Press Release via LexisNexis, 7/28/06]

- **Turner Called On House Leadership To “Bring Consideration Of Increasing The Minimum Wage To The Floor.”** According to a press release from Rep. Michael R. Turner, “Rep. Michael R. Turner, (R - Centerville) revealed today that during a recent meeting of the Republican House Conference, he called on House Leadership to bring consideration of an increase of the minimum wage to the floor for a vote. Rep. Turner further announced that if brought to the floor, he would support an increase of the minimum wage. [...] Therefore, I called upon leadership to bring consideration of increasing the minimum wage to the floor. If given the opportunity, I will vote for an increase into the \$7 range of most of the proposals.” [Turner Press Release via LexisNexis, 7/28/06]

REP. TIM MURPHY (R-PA)

Murphy On 2007 Minimum Wage Act: “This Will Make The Lives Of Some Of The Hardest Working People In America More Comfortable.” According to press release from the office of Rep. Tim Murphy (R-PA), “The House of Representatives today passed legislation increasing the federal minimum wage, but lacking additional benefits for working families Congressman Tim Murphy (PA-18) called to be included. The Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007, H.R. 2, allows for the first minimum wage increase since 1997. ‘American workers have been long over due for a pay raise. Its [*sic*] been almost 10 years since the last ,’ said Congressman Tim Murphy, a co-sponsor of the legislation. [...] ‘This will make the lives of some of the hardest working people in America more comfortable.’” [Murphy Press Release, [1/10/07](#)]

REP. TED POE (R-TX)

Rep. Poe On 2007 Minimum Wage Act: “The People In My District Wanted An Increase And I Supported The Measure.” According to a statement released by Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX) on the passage of H.R. 2, the Fair Minimum Wage Act, “I heard from constituents from all across my district and they overwhelmingly supported raising the federal minimum wage. I would have

preferred the bill include measures to assist small businesses, like the ability to join into Small Business Association Health Plans, but the people in my district wanted an increase and I supported the measure. I voted for the increase in the 109th Congress and I voted for it again in the 110th Congress.” [Poe Press Release via Lexis Nexis, 1/10/07]

REP. FRED UPTON (R-MI)

Upton On Voting For The 2007 Minimum Wage Act: “We Are Providing A Much Needed Financial Boost To American Workers And Their Families.” According to statement from Rep. Fred Upton’s (R-MI) office, “Rep. Fred Upton (R-St. Joseph), a longtime supporter of raising the minimum wage, applauded today’s approval of bipartisan legislation in the House of Representatives to increase the federal minimum wage from \$5.15 an hour to \$7.25 an hour. Today’s measure, the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007, H.R. 2, passed the House by a vote of 315 to 116. [...] ‘We are well overdue in raising the minimum wage for hardworking Americans with the last increase occurring some 10 years ago,’ said Upton. [...] The current federal minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour for a full-time worker, working 40 hours per week, would earn only \$10,712 a year, falling well below the \$20,000 poverty line for a family of four. By raising the minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour, we are providing a much needed financial boost to American workers and their families.” [Upton Press Release via Lexis Nexis, 1/10/07]

- **In 2006, Upton Signed A Letter Urging Speaker Boehner To Schedule A Vote For A “Substantial Increase In The Minimum Wage.”** According to a letter from 26 members of Congress to then-House Majority Leader John Boehner, “We write today to urge you to schedule a vote on legislation which would provide a substantial increase in the minimum wage before the House recesses for the August District Work Period.” Rep. Fred Upton is among the members who signed the letter. [Letter to Majority Leader Boehner via Archive.org, [7/12/06](#)]

REP. KENNY MARCHANT (R-TX)

Rep. Marchant On 2007 Minimum Wage Act: “This Increase Is Long Overdue, And I Am Glad To Support It.” According to the Dallas Morning News, “Three Texas Republicans broke party ranks by voting for the minimum wage increase on Wednesday: Reps. Kenny Marchant of Coppel, Lamar Smith of San Antonio and Ted Poe of Humble. [...] Mr. Marchant noted that the federal minimum wage has been stagnant since 1996 and said the increase has overwhelming support in his district. ‘This increase is long overdue, and I am glad to support it,’ he said through a spokesman, though he also complained that Democrats rebuffed GOP efforts to link the wage increase to small-business concessions.” [Dallas Morning News via Lexis Nexis, 1/11/07]

REP. CHARLIE DENT (R-PA)

Rep. Dent On 2007 Minimum Wage Act: “Without Question, The Raising Of The Minimum Wage Is An Idea Whose Time Has Come.” According to a press release from Rep. Charlie Dent (R-PA), “U.S. Rep. Charlie Dent (PA-15) today voted for HR 2, the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007, which passed the House today by a vote of 315-116. The bill raises the minimum wage in stages from \$5.15 per hour to \$7.25 per hour over two years. It now moves on to the Senate. This is Congressman Dent's second vote to raise the minimum wage. On July 28 of last year the Congressman voted in favor of HR 5970, the Estate Tax and Extension of Tax Relief Act of 2006. That bill, which passed the House by a vote of 230-180, would have raised the minimum wage to \$7.25 over a three year period, but it was not considered in the Senate. ‘Without question, the raising of the minimum wage is an idea whose time has come,’ Congressman Dent said. ‘Many states, including Pennsylvania, have already done so.’ [Dent Press Release via Lexis Nexis, 1/10/07]

- **Dent: “Raising The Minimum Wage After Almost A Decade Is A Reasonable And Fair Way To Help Entry Level And Low-Income Workers Keep Up With The Economy.”** According to press release from Rep. Charlie Dent (R-PA), “Charlie Dent (PA-15) today urged the U.S. Senate to pass the minimum wage increase bill passed by the House last week. The Senate is expected to vote on the bill Friday. [...] ‘Raising the minimum wage after almost a decade is a reasonable and fair way to help entry level and low-income workers keep up with the economy,’ Congressman Dent said.” [Dent Press Release via Lexis Nexis, 8/3/06]

REP. JIM GERLACH (R-PA)

Rep. Gerlach On 2007 Minimum Wage Act: “Increasing The Federal Minimum Wage Is Certainly Long Overdue.” According to a press release from Rep. Jim Gerlach (R-PA), “Congressman Jim Gerlach (PA-06) voted today in favor of legislation increasing the federal minimum wage to \$7.25/hour over the next two years, the first increase since 1997. However, Congressman Gerlach also called on the U.S. Senate to adjust the legislation so that the final wage increase signed into law helps both hard-working Americans while not putting an unreasonable burden on the nation’s small businesses that employ them. ‘Increasing the federal minimum wage is certainly long overdue,’ Congressman Gerlach said today. ‘However, it’s critical that the Senate adds important provisions to this legislation so our nation’s small business owners are not suddenly faced with an unfunded mandate that they won’t be able to pay without cutting jobs and raising prices – two options that would affect the very people who need this wage increase the most.’” [Gerlach Press Release, [1/10/07](#)]

REP. PETER KING (R-NY)

Rep. Peter King On Raising The Minimum Wage: “I Think We Should Do It.” According to The Hill, “King, the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, said that Republican leaders

have to be careful to avoid the perception that they did not make a good-faith effort to raise the wage. ‘I think we should do it,’ said King, whose district was added last month to a list of competitive races compiled by the nonpartisan handicapper Charlie Cook. ‘Rather than play games, just do it. If voters think you’re being cute it ends up backfiring.’” [The Hill via Lexis Nexis, 9/6/06]

- **In 2006, King Signed A Letter Urging Speaker Boehner To Schedule A Vote For A “Substantial Increase In The Minimum Wage.”** According to a letter from 26 members of Congress to then-House Majority Leader John Boehner, “We write today to urge you to schedule a vote on legislation which would provide a substantial increase in the minimum wage before the House recesses for the August District Work Period.” Rep. Peter King is among the members who signed the letter. [Letter to Majority Leader Boehner via Archive.org, [7/12/06](#)]

SEN. MITCH MCCONNELL (R-KY)

Sen. Mitch McConnell In 2007: “We Agree That The Raising Of The Minimum Wage Is A Good Idea.” In an interview with Robert Siegel on NPR, Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY) stated, “The president's indicated and we agree that the raising of the minimum wage is a good idea. We would like to, however, package that with some small businesses tax and regulatory relief to minimize the job loss that is the inevitable result of raising the minimum wage. But this is a deal that I think we ought to be able to make.” [NPR, [1/4/07](#)]

SEN. JOHN MCCAIN (R-AZ)

Sen. John McCain In 2007: “I’m For The Minimum Wage Increases When They Are Not Attached To Other Big-Spending Pork Barrel. ... The Fact Is That I Am For A Living Wage For All Americans.” In an interview with Chris Wallace on Fox News Sunday, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) stated, “I’m for the minimum wage increases when they are not attached to other big-spending pork barrel. The practice in Washington is attach a good thing to a bad thing. And that way, then you have to vote yes or no. [...] The fact is that I am for a living wage for all Americans. And I’d like to see them get it. But the key is to get them jobs, and get them the kind of good educational opportunity and affordable health care. So, I am committed, and my record clearly shows that I’ve done everything I can to keep their taxes low, to get them available and affordable health insurance, and to secure a good education and give them a choice, not be governed by the teachers’ union.” [Fox News Sunday, [8/31/08](#)]

- **Sen. John McCain In 2014: A Vote On Raising The Minimum Wage Is “A Very Clever Strategy On The Part Of The Democrats” -- “Anything But Obamacare.”** According to the transcript of CNN’s State of the Union with Candy Crowley,

CANDY CROWLEY (HOST): Domestically, one of the things that we knew from the exit polls in the last election, that when people felt that the premier quality of a president should be that he cares about people. President Obama won that vote 81 - by 81 percentile. 81 to 18 with Romney. The most important quality. Now the Republican Party is facing votes on extending jobless benefits for the long term

unemployed and, b, raising the minimum wage. Is there any way from a purely perceptual standpoint that Republicans will not take the hit for looking as though they, "don't care about people"?

SEN. JOHN MCCAIN: Well, first of all, I think it is a very clever strategy on the part of the Democrats anything but Obamacare. Second of all, we Republicans have to be better in our messaging. [CNN, State of the Union with Candy Crowley, [1/12/14](#)]

SEN. BOB CORKER (R-TN)

Sen. Bob Corker In 2007: “The Federal Minimum Wage Hasn’t Increased In A Decade, And It’s Time We Provided This Increase For Working Families.” According to a statement from Sen. Bob Corker (R-TN), “I believe we've passed a minimum wage bill that helps workers and protects their jobs. The federal minimum wage hasn't increased in a decade, and it's time we provided this increase for working families. We've worked to ensure that the bill provides revenue neutral relief for the small businesses most affected by the cost of the increase. That means we're providing tax relief without creating a larger deficit. I'm particularly glad this bill includes a tax credit for employing veterans who are disabled as a result of their service in Iraq and Afghanistan. This is an appropriate way to support our troops and their families who have sacrificed so much.” [Corker Statement, [2/1/07](#)]

SEN. MIKE ENZI (R-WI)

Sen. Mike Enzi: “A Majority Of The Senate” Supports Raising The Minimum Wage “As Long As We Can Soften The Impact Of That Increase On The Small Businesses Which Create Minimum Wage Jobs.” According to a statement from Sen. Mike Enzi (R-WY) on the Senate floor, “We are ending consideration of this issue basically where we began and where many of us were the last few years - with a majority of the Senate supporting a minimum wage increase as long as we can soften the impact of that increase on the small businesses which create minimum wage jobs. A higher wage is of no use when the job itself is gone. The Senate chose to look at the whole picture this time around. The minimum wage could have been raised years ago had some on the other side been willing to accept the important role working families and small businesses play in providing employment in this country.” [Enzi Floor Statement, [2/1/07](#)]

SEN. JEFF SESSIONS (R-AL)

Sen. Jeff Sessions In 2007: “Today's Passage Of The Minimum Wage Bill Will Be A Positive Step For Our Low Wage Workers.” According to a press release from Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-AL), “Today's passage of the minimum wage bill will be a positive step for our low wage workers. In truth, as I have stated several times during floor debate, the wages of low and middle class Americans have fallen behind as our economy and profits grow. While this is one step that will help,

it alone is not enough to close the gap. I want to see honest, hardworking Americans be paid \$15, \$30 an hour with health insurance and a workable retirement program. I offered amendments to the minimum wage bill that would deal with three serious problems: savings, the earned income tax credit (EITC) and immigration. All three are important to middle class economic security.” [Congressional Press Releases, 2/1/07 via LexisNexis]

Many Conservative Politicians Are Hostile To The Minimum Wage

Sen. Ron Johnson: “When You’re A Good Worker You Don’t Stay At Minimum Wage For Long. Trust Me On That.” In a video taken by The Uptake, Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) said, “Bottom line: when you’re a good worker you don’t stay at minimum wage for long. Trust me on that. It’s not universal. It’s not universal, but trust me as an employer, as an employer I certainly didn’t want to lose good employees. And so you actually have a better marketplace. And so if your employer is not paying you good wages and you’re a good worker, you go look for other places.” [The Uptake, [12/11/11](#)]

Sen. Marco Rubio: “I Don’t Think A Minimum Wage Law Works.” According to the Washington Post, “In his response to the State of the Union on Tuesday night, Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) laid out his own vision, not a direct rebuttal of President Obama's proposals. But on CBS Wednesday morning he came out against Obama's push to raise the minimum wage to \$9 an hour. ‘I support people making more than \$9. I want people to make as much as they can. I don't think a minimum wage law works,’ Rubio told Charlie Rose. ‘We all support -- I certainly do -- having more taxpayers, meaning more people who are employed. And I want people to make a lot more than \$9 - - \$9 is not enough. The problem is you can't do that by mandating it in the minimum wage laws. Minimum wage laws have never worked in terms of having the middle class attain more prosperity.’ What works, he said, is helping the private sector grow.” [Washington Post, [2/13/13](#)]

Sen. John Cornyn On A \$9 Minimum Wage: “My Question Is, Why Stop There? Let’s Just Raise It To \$100 An Hour.” According to the Dallas Morning News, “Sen. John Cornyn today rejected the president’s State of the Union prodding for a \$9 minimum wage, warning that raising the hourly wage would hamper job creation. ‘My question is, why stop there? Let’s just raise it to \$100 an hour,’ Cornyn, the deputy Republican leader in the Senate, said today on his weekly call with Texas reporters. ‘The unintended consequence of government mandating wages is that unfortunately, many younger workers get fired or laid off or never hired because it’s not economical for a small business to hire them... It hurts job creation and it is really unwarranted government intervention in the marketplace.’” [Dallas Morning News, [2/13/13](#)]

- **Sen. John Cornyn: “The Marketplace Needs To Determine What Wages Are, Not Some Government Mandate.”** According to the Dallas Morning News, “Cornyn noted that during the 2008 campaign, Obama called for a \$9.50 minimum wage. ‘The marketplace needs to determine what wages are, not some government mandate,’ Cornyn said — suggesting that he would prefer to eliminate the federally-mandated wage. Asked to clarify, Cornyn said,

‘Presumably people would not work for zero, and presumably they would negotiate a wage with their employer based on the skill set they have and the needs of the employer and not based on some government mandate.’” [Dallas Morning News, [2/13/13](#)]

- **Sen. John Cornyn Supported Bipartisan Minimum Wage Hike In 2007.** According to a press release from Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX), “This bipartisan legislation, which I supported, helps low-income workers while protecting small businesses and their employees from the consequences of raising wages in the marketplace. Small businesses are the number one creator of new jobs in America and they deserve our support. By helping them with this important tax and regulatory relief, we'll ensure that the economy continues to grow.” [Cornyn Press Release via LexisNexis, 2/1/07]

Sen. Lamar Alexander Would “Abolish The Minimum Wage.” In a hearing held by the Senate HELP Committee on the minimum wage, Sen. Lamar Alexander (R- TN) had the following exchange with Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT),

SANDERS: OK, so you do not believe in the concept of the minimum wage?

ALEXANDER: That is correct.

SANDERS: You would abolish the minimum wage.

ALEXANDER: Correct.

[Hearing of the Senate Committee on Health Education, Labor and Pensions via Nexis, 6/25/13]

Rep. Joe Barton: “I Would Vote To Repeal The Minimum Wage.” According to the National Journal, “It's particularly unpalatable for Republicans, as the majority of them oppose to raising the minimum wage at all. ‘I think it's outlived its usefulness,’ said Rep. Joe Barton of Texas. ‘It may have been of some value back in the Great Depression. I would vote to repeal the minimum wage.’” [National Journal, [12/5/13](#)]

Rep. Markwayne Mullin On The Minimum Wage: “You Guys Wanna Pay 20 Dollars For A Hamburger At McDonald’s?” At a town hall meeting, Rep. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK) stated, “You guys want to pay 20 dollars for a hamburger at McDonald’s? You can charge – you can raise the minimum wage to 20 bucks an hour if you want to, but these people that want to do this, they don’t understand – you’ve gotta pass it on. I mean we’re all going to pay for it. So that person that’s making seven dollars an hour, is making ten dollars an hour now, great, but everything now goes up too. And so he’s still gonna be – it’s still gonna be the same – his dollar’s still gonna go the same distance as it was before. So if you want to increase it, that’s great. What you’re gonna do is punish everybody along the way.” [Mullin Comments, [8/12/13](#)]

A Host Of Republican Governors Oppose Increasing The Minimum Wage

Gov. Rick Scott: “When I Hear A Politician Say That We Have To Raise The Minimum Wage So Working Families Can Make Ends Meet, I Cringe, Because I Know That Statement Is A Lie.” According to the Tampa Bay Times, “Count Gov. Rick Scott among those who are dubious about the Democrats' proposal. ‘When I hear a politician say that we have to raise the minimum wage so working families can make ends meet, I cringe, because I know that statement is a lie,’ Scott said via email. ‘Even if we did raise the minimum wage, working families will still not be able to make ends meet on those jobs.’” [Tampa Bay Times, [1/8/14](#)]

Gov. Scott Walker Said He Is Against A National Minimum Wage Increase Because Minimum Wage Jobs Are “Overwhelmingly” For Young People Starting Out In The Workforce. According to a transcript of an interview with Gov. Scott Walker on MSNBC’s Daily Rundown,

CHUCK TODD (HOST): Minimum wage. Are you in favor of seeing it raised nationally?

WALKER: No. It would-- I started out, just like Paul Ryan did down the road from me, working at McDonalds. Jobs that involve the minimum wage are overwhelmingly jobs for young people starting out in the workforce. The last thing we want to do is have fewer young people at a time when unemployment rates are still way too high.” [MSNBC, Daily Rundown with Chuck Todd via YouTube, [1/6/14](#)]

Gov. Terry Branstad Said That Increasing The Minimum Wage In Iowa Is “Not Part Of My Agenda.” According to the Des Moines Register, “Democrats in the Iowa Legislature will pursue an increase in the minimum wage this year, but their Republican counterparts and Gov. Terry Branstad don’t appear to share their enthusiasm. [...] Branstad, meanwhile, said an increase in the minimum wage is ‘not part of my agenda,’ and emphasized efforts to attract higher-skilled and higher paying jobs to the state and train workers to perform those jobs. ‘This is the way I think we address the issue of increasing incomes for our citizens,’ he said.” [Des Moines Register, [1/8/14](#)]

Gov. Paul LePage: “We Don’t Need To Increase Our Minimum Wage.” According to a transcript of Maine Governor Paul LePage’s weekly radio address, “Supporters say raising the minimum wage would provide more money to low-income people, who would then spend this money and stimulate the economy. They claim that hiking the minimum wage would create 166 million dollars in new income and new spending each year. But folks, that money would not fall from trees; it has to come from somewhere. [...] We don’t need to increase our minimum wage, which is already higher than the federal minimum wage.” [Weekly Radio Address via Maine.gov; [4/27/13](#)]

Gov. Susana Martinez Vetoed A Bill That Would Have Raised The Minimum Wage In New Mexico. According to The Deming Headlight, “New Mexico's lowest-paid workers will not get a raise. Gov. Susana Martinez on Friday vetoed a bill to increase the state's minimum wage by \$1 an

hour, to \$8.50. Martinez, a Republican, blamed majority Democrats in the state Legislature for seeking too large an increase.” [Deming Headlight, [3/31/13](#)]

Gov. John Kasich Said He Was Concerned About Raising The Minimum Wage In Ohio Because It Could Put “Unskilled People Out Of Work.” According to the Columbus Dispatch, “At the end of a day's worth of promoting/defending his two-year, \$63.3 billion budget proposal Wednesday, Gov. John Kasich was asked by an editor at an Ohio Newspaper Association if he supported President Barack Obama's call for Congress to raise the minimum wage to \$9 an hour. [...] ‘The real concern about just raising it is do you put your unskilled people out of work,’ Kasich said. ‘Because when businesses take a look at the total amount of money they have for salary, who loses if those costs go up?’ [Columbus Dispatch, [2/14/13](#)]

Gov. Chris Christie Said He Would Not Sign A Minimum Wage Increase Bill In New Jersey Because “There’s No Free Lunch.” According remarks made by New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, “Right now there’s one bill that has passed the assembly to raise the minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$8.50, and to put an automatic cost of living increase for every year. [...] I can guarantee you one thing: I’m not signing that bill. [...] On this issue, you know, I know I’m sounding old, but there’s no free lunch. There’s no, there’s no way for us to do this without taking money from somebody else to get it done or putting ourselves in such debt that we’ll never be able to climb out from under it.” [Gov. Christie Remarks via YouTube, [6/12/12](#)]

Gov. Chris Christie Called A Constitutional Amendment That Would Raise The Minimum Wage In New Jersey “Truly Ridiculous” And “Stupid.” According to remarks made by New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, “You’ve got the speaker passing the bill in the Assembly that raises the minimum wage I think to \$8.25. Now you’ve got the Senate president putting forth a truly ridiculous idea of amending our Constitution to raise the minimum wage? I’ve told these folks all along that I am more than happy to discuss their idea to raise the minimum wage, but it has to be in the context of a number of other economic development and growth measures. I’ve told them that privately, I’ve said it publicly. But I will oppose amending our Constitution. That is just a stupid way to do it.” [Gov. Christie Remarks via YouTube, [9/26/12](#)]

Gov. Rick Perry Questioned The Constitutionality Of The Minimum Wage. According to the Los Angeles Times, “Texas Gov. Rick Perry, faulting much of what the federal government did in the 20th century, has called Social Security a ‘failure’ and ‘an illegal Ponzi scheme’ and also cast doubt on the constitutionality of federal laws on food safety, minimum wages, bans on child labor, environmental protection and Medicare. [...] He also heaps scorn on the New Deal era of the 1930s. Then, ‘an arrogant President [Franklin] Roosevelt, an emboldened Congress’ and a compliant Supreme Court agreed the federal government could enforce minimum wages, regulate manufacturers, protect unions, police Wall Street and guarantee pensions for older Americans. The result, he wrote, has been ‘a complete and total failure.’” [Los Angeles Times, [8/23/11](#)]

Conservative Groups Opposed To Increasing The Minimum Wage Represent The Interests Of Big Business And The Super Wealthy

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS (NFIB)

NFIB Opposes Raising The Minimum Wage

NFIB: Minimum Wage Increase Would Put Small Businesses “At A Competitive Disadvantage.” According to the NFIB’s website, “Indexing the minimum wage would ensure that it would rise every year, further adding to the burden placed on employers and placing them at a competitive disadvantage.” [NFIB.com, [1/15/14](#)]

NFIB Has Put In “Considerable Effort” To Defeat Minimum Wage Laws. According to Businessweek, “The traditional stance is represented by the National Federation of Independent Business, which has put considerable effort into fighting half a dozen state minimum wage increases in the Northeast this year, says Jack Mozloom, the group’s regional media manager. ‘We’re trying to put that fire out in a bunch of different places,’ he says, including New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. ‘Our members are nearly unanimously against an increase, not only because they don’t have the sales volume that would justify an increase in their labor expenses, but because it tends to inflate wages up and down the scale.’” [Businessweek, [8/17/12](#)]

In 2007, NFIB Joined “Mega-Corporation” McDonalds And The National Restaurant Association To Lobby Against Minimum Wage Increase. According to the American Prospect, “Last year industry groups like the National Restaurant Association and the National Federation of Independent Businesses and restaurant mega-corporations like McDonald's and OSI Restaurant Partners (Outback Steakhouse) bankrolled unsuccessful efforts to defeat the minimum wage ballot initiatives.” [American Prospect, [6/1/07](#)]

NFIB Claims To Represent “Small And Independent” Businesses, But Evidence Shows Otherwise

NFIB Claims To Be “America’s Leading Small-Business Advocacy Association.” According to NFIB’s website, “Founded in 1943, and headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee, the National Federation of Independent Business is America’s leading small-business advocacy association. [...] NFIB has a team of lobbyists in Washington, D.C. and in all 50 states fighting to give every type of small and independent business a voice in government policy-making.” [NFIB.com, Viewed [1/23/14](#)]

NFIB Claimed Membership Of 600,000, But Insiders Said That Number Was Severely Inflated. According to a 2006 report by the Nashville Scene, “It’s considered the largest and most influential small-business lobbying group in the country, touting 600,000 members nationwide. And while the National Federation of Independent Business is undoubtedly a powerful political machine in Washington, D.C., some say the Nashville-based advocacy group has exaggerated its size for

years. Claiming 600,000 members is misleading, according to several former NFIB leaders, if not an outright lie. They say a true count of dues-paying members would reveal membership has plunged in recent years to about half of what the group boasts. 'I cannot recall when they really ever had 600,000,' says one former senior manager who worked with NFIB for five years. 'There were a number of times when I asked questions about it, and there were always many different answers to that question.' The primary reason for inflating membership numbers, according to erstwhile NFIB insiders, is to maintain the clout it's gained with Congress over the past decade." [Nashville Scene, [7/27/06](#)]

- **NFIB Today Claims 350,000 Members.** According to NFIB's website, "A nonpartisan, nonprofit association, NFIB has 350,000 small and independent business owners across the nation." [NFIB.com, Viewed [1/23/14](#)]

Mother Jones: "Small Business Groups Now Accuse The NFIB Of Doing Exactly What It Was Founded To Prevent: Selling Out Small Business Owners To Benefit The Rich." According to Mother Jones, "This is one reason why a variety of rival small business groups now accuse the NFIB of doing exactly what it was founded to prevent: selling out small business owners to benefit the rich and powerful. '[They have proved themselves to be just a shill operation for big corporations,' says Rick Poore, the owner of DesignWear, a 35-person screen printing shop in Nebraska and member of the Main Street Alliance, a business association that disagrees with the NFIB on many issues. 'People just jump onboard because it has all the right sound bites, but in reality so much of it is against their own best interests.'" [Mother Jones, [7/23/12](#)]

NFIB Is Prominent Defender Of Tax Breaks For The Wealthy. According to Mother Jones, "[Romney's] argument has the support of a powerful ally: the National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB), a 'nonpartisan' small-business advocacy group that has put defending the Bush tax cuts for the richest of the rich near the top of its political agenda. Often cited as the leading voice of small business, the NFIB was founded in 1943 by a former US Chamber of Commerce staffer who thought that business groups were neglecting the little guys. Today it claims 350,000 members, chapters in all 50 states, and a \$95 million budget. In May, the Washington Post cited the NFIB to back up Romney's attacks on Obama's tax plan, reporting that the group had given an F to the portion of Obama's budget that deals with taxing the wealthy. The NFIB's defense of the rich offers handy political cover for the Learjet crowd, but few among the legions of small business owners that it represents will benefit from its lobbying. Only 3 percent of small businesses net more than \$250,000 a year, the lowest income that would be affected by Obama's tax plan." [Mother Jones, [7/23/12](#)]

Businessweek: "No Question" That NFIB Supports Conservative Positions, And It Also Engages In "Small Biz-Washing." According to Businessweek, "Does the NFIB support conservative positions? No question. It's received \$3.7 million in funding from Karl Rove's Crossroads GPS. The NFIB also spent \$3.1 million in 2010 for 'advertising services' with Crossroads Media, which bills itself as 'the premier Republican media services firm.' Does that make the NFIB a front for big business, or are conservative policies just what its small business membership wants? That's harder to judge. The NFIB backs extending tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans, even though the bulk of those benefits would accrue to people other than small business owners, according to a nonpartisan analysis. We dubbed this practice 'small biz-washing.'" [Businessweek, [9/26/12](#)]

Several NFIB Staffers “Earn Salaries In Excess Of \$250,000,” While Board Members “Operate Companies That Are Small In Name Only.” According to Mother Jones, “Moreover, leaders of the NFIB itself have a direct stake in the anti-tax mission. Last year the group paid its president, former steel lobbyist Dan Danner, more than \$700,000. At least seven other NFIB staffers also earn salaries in excess of \$250,000, the cutoff for paying higher taxes under the Obama plan. And many of the businesspeople on NFIB’s board of directors operate companies that are small in name only. For instance, board member James M. Herr is the CEO of snack-food maker Herr Foods Inc., a ‘\$200 million family business,’ according to its website.” [Mother Jones, [7/23/12](#)]

Partisan NFIB Funded By Groups Affiliated With Karl Rove And The Koch Brothers

While NFIB Used To Be Almost Exclusively Member-Funded, The Group Has Taken Millions From Wealthy Interests Committed To “Funding The Right.” According to Mother Jones, “The group did not return calls seeking comment for this story, but one answer may lie in the NFIB’s evolving finances. It has traditionally been supported almost entirely by membership dues; as recently as 2009, its largest single donation from an outside entity was just \$21,000. But during the last two years, the NFIB suddenly received nearly \$7 million in the form of just five contributions of \$180,000 or more—not exactly the kind of money that most small business owners can afford to fork over. Of those five donations, the only one with a known source is a \$3.7 million transfer from Karl Rove’s Crossroads GPS, the dark-money arm of his political fundraising juggernaut. The 2010 donation was part of American Crossroads’ new strategy of ‘funding the right,’ Weekly Standard editor Fred Barnes explained in a Wall Street Journal op-ed, adding that American Crossroads decided ‘it was money well spent.’” [Mother Jones, [7/23/12](#)]

2012: \$86 Million In Membership Dues, Nearly \$9 Million In Gifts From Outside. According to its IRS Form 990 for tax year 2012, NFIB received in \$86,373,071 in “program service revenue” and \$8,996,525 in contributions and grants. [National Federation of Independent Business IRS Form 990, [2012](#)]

NFIB Receives Substantial Funding From Crossroads GPS And Conservative DonorsTrust. According to the Huffington Post, “Although NFIB doesn’t disclose where it gets its money, some of its funders have to list their donations in public documents. The new website and other research shows that a big chunk of its budget came from the Donors’ Trust, a secretive conservative group that also funnels money to groups like the Koch Brothers’ Americans for Prosperity Foundation, and from Karl Rove-founded Crossroads GPS. Ironically, Rove’s Crossroads GPS gave NFIB \$3.7 million as part of Rove’s efforts to persuade the IRS that his group spends less than half of its money on overtly partisan activities. According to Crossroad’s tax return, the donation was in the interest of ‘social welfare.’” [Huffington Post, [9/26/12](#)]

- **NFIB Has Received \$5,125,000 From Crossroads GPS.** According to publicly available tax documents, Crossroads GPS contributed \$5,125,000 to the National Federation of Independent Business between 2010 and 2012. [Crossroads GPS IRS Forms 990, 2010-2012]
- **NFIB Has Received Nearly \$3.2 Million From DonorsTrust.** According to publicly available tax documents, DonorsTrust contributed \$3,190,000 to the National Federation of Independent Business between 2007 and 2011. [Donors Trust IRS Forms 990, 2007-2011]

NFIB Received \$2.5 Million From Koch-Tied Freedom Partners. According to CNN, “The National Federation of Independent Business is one of the most influential small-business advocacy groups in the country. They battle against government regulation, higher taxes and, perhaps most famously, Obamacare. And they do it all as the self-described ‘voice of small business.’ But it turns out that the champions of Main Street America got more money last year from a group backed by billionaire industrialists Charles and David Koch than any other single source. NFIB and its affiliated groups received \$2.5 million from Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce, a conservative advocacy group with deep ties to the Koch empire. Of the five men that sit on the group's board, four are current or former employees of Koch companies and one is a friend of Charles Koch's.” [CNN, [11/21/13](#)]

NFIB Is More Financially Committed To Republicans Than Are Koch Industries, Exxon Mobil, And The NRA. According to the Huffington Post, “Looking at all donations since 1989, the NFIB is ranked third highest on Opensecrets.org’s list of political ‘heavy hitters,’ based on the percentage of its contributions going to Republican candidates. NFIB's 93 percent is higher than Koch Industries with 90 percent; Exxon Mobil with 86 percent; and the National Rifle Association with 82 percent.” [Huffington Post, [9/26/12](#)]

EMPLOYMENT POLICIES INSTITUTE & RICHARD BERMAN

Employment Policies Institute Opposes Minimum Wage Increases

Employment Policies Institute Took Out Full-Page Ad In New York Times Against Minimum Wage Increase. According to The Hill, “The conservative Employment Policies Institute this week is touting research warning the wage hike to \$10.10 would destroy between 360,000 and 1 million entry-level jobs. The group took out a full-page ad in Wednesday's New York Times declaring that the Democrats’ proposal would also do nothing to reduce poverty. The best weapon in the war on poverty is a job, the ad reads.” [The Hill, [1/15/14](#)]

EPI Research Director: Rise In Minimum Wage Will “Decimate The Entry-Level Job Market.” According to Deseret News, “Mike Saltsman, research director for the Employment Policy [sic] Institute, is fighting against a heavy tide. A nonprofit think tank with ties to the restaurant and hospitality industries, EPI has been leading the fight against a higher minimum wage, which Saltsman says would ‘decimate the entry-level job market.’ Last week, EPI ran an ad in the New York Times with an image of a destitute woman in a hoodie holding a cardboard sign that said, ‘I don’t need a raise, I need a job.’ The headline said, ‘The Best Weapon in the War on Poverty is a Job,’ and the subtext added that ‘President Obama and Senate Democrats want to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 to help the poor. But nearly 60 percent of the working-age poor don’t have a job and wouldn’t be affected. Of those who would receive a raise, just 13 percent live in poor families. That’s why most studies show a wage hike doesn’t reduce poverty.’ Saltsman’s main argument is that minimum wage is an ineffective way to target the poor. Not everyone with low wages is poor, he says. Many are teenagers, and those who need access to entry-level jobs would be threatened by hamburger machines.” [Deseret News, [1/19/14](#)]

EPI: Minimum Wage Increase Will Eliminate Up To 1 Million Jobs. According to the Employment Policies Institute, “Today, the Employment Policies Institute (EPI) released a new

analysis estimating that at least 360,000 jobs — and as many as 1,084,000 jobs — would be eliminated if the federal minimum wage were raised to \$10.10. EPI also has a full-page ad in The New York Times today highlighting how ineffective wage hikes are in reducing poverty. [...] No amount of denial by the President and his political allies—and no number of ‘studies’ published by biased researchers—can change the fact that minimum wage hikes eliminate jobs for low-skill and entry-level employees.” [Employment Policies Institute, [1/14/14](#)]

Employment Policies Institute Is Affiliated With PR Operative Richard Berman, Known For Attacking Labor Unions And Opposing Restrictions On Tobacco And Drunk Driving

Employment Policies Institute One Of “Notorious” PR Operative Richard Berman’s “Front Groups.” According to Mother Jones, “Credit Richard Berman, one of Washington’s most notorious PR operatives, whose exploits *Mother Jones* and others have been chronicling for years. Nicknamed Dr. Evil—a moniker he embraces—he’s the force behind several industry-backed nonprofits that share staff and office space with his very for-profit communications and advertising firm, Berman and Company. The firm promises clients it will not ‘just change the debate’ but ‘start’ one, and a range of companies, from Anheuser-Busch to Philip Morris to the casino chain Harrah’s, have signed up for Berman’s ‘aggressive’ and ‘hard-hitting’ advocacy. Some clients pay Berman and Co. directly, while others donate to his nonprofits—but much of the cash winds up in the same place, via hefty management fees the front groups pay to Berman’s company. Among Berman’s outfits is the Center for Consumer Freedom, which targets critics of fast food, alcohol, and mercury-laden fish. (Seen its commercial in which the ‘food police’ yank an ice cream cone from a little boy?) Berman’s Employment Policies Institute campaigns against minimum-wage increases. And his Employee Freedom Action Committee crusades against unionization.” [Mother Jones, [September/October 2009](#)]

NYT: “Berman’s Groups Offer...Anonymity For Companies That Would Rather Their Customers Not Know They Are Behind Certain Attacks.” According to the New York Times, “Across two decades, Mr. Berman has founded the Center for Consumer Freedom and five other nonprofits with similarly innocuous names. His industry donors — including restaurant chains whose costs could rise if living conditions for animals have to be improved, and wine and spirits companies that might sell less liquor if MADD has its way — can claim a deduction for charitable donations or business expenses. And since nonprofit groups do not have to disclose their donors, Mr. Berman’s groups offer an even more valuable asset — anonymity for companies that would rather their customers not know they are behind certain attacks.” [New York Times, [6/17/10](#)]

- **Berman: There Is A “Lack Of Evidence That Second-Hand Smoke Causes Cancer.”** According to Slate, “In addition to MADD, ABI is waging PR wars against the American Medical Association, the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the National Transportation Safety Board, and other organizations with ‘very radical agendas.’ ABI’s executive director, Rick Berman, runs a network of lobbying groups that oppose regulation of animal welfare, soda, corn syrup, indoor tanning, and mercury in fish. Berman’s Web sites condemn the Humane Society of the United States and claim that the ‘anti-cancer benefits’ of tanning ‘far outweigh the risks associated with over-exposure.’ In defense of public smoking, Berman asserts a ‘lack of evidence that second-hand smoke causes cancer.’” [Slate, [8/29/11](#)]

- **Berman: Mothers Against Drunk Driving Are “Modern-Day Prohibitionists.”** According to the Boston Globe, “But Berman, in his role as president of a trade group called the American Beverage Institute, continues to battle Mothers Against Drunk Driving. The institute says on its website that its mission is to ‘expose and vigorously counter the campaigns of modern-day prohibitionists.’ ... At the same time, the American Beverage Institute runs a website called ‘The New Prohibition,’ which alleges that a network of ‘anti-alcohol activists,’ including the American Medical Association and Mothers Against Drunk Driving, ‘seek to return the United States to the 1920s,’ when alcohol use was banned. The website said that if anti-alcohol activists have their way today, some people won’t be able to have ‘a beer at a ballgame.’” [Boston Globe, [5/19/13](#)]
- **Berman: Unions “Drove American Companies Like The Automakers, The Airlines, The Steel Industry And Others Either Offshore Or Into Bankruptcy.”** According to an op-ed by Richard Berman in the Washington Times, “Apparently America’s employees were better off in 1968 than they are today. At least, such is the claim of the labor-backed activists and the AFL-CIO’s chief economist. By their telling, the minimum wage has lost value — if it were fairly adjusted since the late 1960s, it would today be set at \$10.58. ... It shouldn’t come as a surprise that union officials at the AFL-CIO and elsewhere are behind this push. Unions, after all, are the same organizations that drove American companies like the automakers, the airlines, the steel industry and others either offshore or into bankruptcy with their unreasonable wage and benefits demands. [Berman Op-Ed, Washington Times, [2/25/13](#)]
- **Berman’s PR Strategy: “We Can Use Fear And Anger — It Stays With People Longer Than Love And Sympathy.”** According to the Boston Globe, “Berman gave one of his most revealing talks about his strategy in a locale far from his Washington office. Meeting with a group of Nebraska farmers in 2010, he told them it was more effective to ‘hit people in their heart rather than their head,’ according to a report on the talk by Nebraska Farm Bureau News. ‘Emotional understanding is very different — it stays with you. Intellectual understanding is a fact and facts trump other facts. When I understand something in my gut, you’ve got me in a very different way.’ Berman then explained why he believes such attacks work. ‘People remember negative stuff,’ Berman said. ‘They don’t like hearing it, but they remember it We can use fear and anger — it stays with people longer than love and sympathy.’” [Boston Globe, [5/19/13](#)]

Berman “Got His Start With Funds From Tobacco Giant Phillip Morris.” According to the Boston Globe, “He got his start with funds from tobacco giant Philip Morris, which paid at least \$600,000 to fight smoking-related legislation, and millions of dollars from alcohol-related businesses.” [Boston Globe, [5/19/13](#)]

In 1980s, Berman Headed “Minimum Wage Coalition To Save Jobs” That Opposed Increasing The Minimum Wage. According to the Los Angeles Times, “Rick Berman, an attorney who heads the business-run Minimum Wage Coalition to Save Jobs, said it opposes any increase in the \$3.35 figure on grounds that it would eliminate jobs rather than raise wages for the lowest paid. He acknowledged, however, that the balloting in November might affect the outcome.” [Los Angeles Times, [3/30/88](#)]

Berman Used To Work For The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce. According to the Berman and Company website, “Berman was previously employed as Executive Vice President of Public Affairs at the Pillsbury Restaurant Group, where he was responsible for the government relations programs of all restaurant operations. He was also a labor lawyer at the United States Chamber of Commerce, the Dana Corporation, and the Bethlehem Steel Corporation.” [BermanCo.com, Viewed [1/22/14](#)]

U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Chamber Has Advocated Against Minimum Wage Increases

Chamber Economist In 2014: “Raising The Minimum Wage Can Only Make These Matters Worse.” According to a U.S. Chamber of Commerce blog post by J.D. Foster, “In a classic case of odd timing the Obama Administration has launched a push for a higher federal minimum wage. The timing appears odd because even after four years the economic recovery remains disturbingly weak. Consequently, the unemployment rate remains high, declining over the past year primarily because workers have simply given up and left the workforce. Raising the minimum wage can only make these matters worse.” [Chamber of Commerce, [1/10/14](#)]

- **Chamber Economist Previously Worked At The Heritage Foundation.** According to LinkedIn, J.D. Foster was previously a senior fellow in the economics of fiscal policy at the Heritage Foundation. [LinkedIn, accessed [1/23/14](#)]

Chamber Urged Congress To Oppose Minimum Wage Increase In 2007. According to a letter addressed to members of Congress from Chamber of Commerce executive vice president R. Bruce Josten, “On behalf of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region, I urge you to vote against H.R. 2, The Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007, which would increase the federal minimum wage by \$2.10 per hour. This legislation is expected to be considered by the House on Wednesday, January 10, 2007. A study by the Employment Policies Institute (Job Loss in a Booming Economy, 2nd Edition) suggests that, as a result of the 1996 wage increase of only \$0.50 an hour, 645,000 entry-level jobs were destroyed despite the robust economy at that time. The proposed increase of \$2.10 an hour—more than four times that of the 1996 increase—will cause small business employers to eliminate entry-level jobs, reduce hours and benefits for current employees, and possibly dismiss current employees. For small businesses, the extra cost associated with a minimum wage increase is often impossible to recoup by raising prices. Customers are likely to shift their business to other competitors who are more able to absorb this increased wage burden.” [Josten Letter, Chamber of Commerce, [1/9/07](#)]

Despite Claiming To Represent Millions Of Businesses, The Chamber Relies Heavily On Contributions From Large Firms

Mother Jones: Chamber “Vastly Overstated” Its Membership Numbers. According to Mother Jones, “The nation's largest business lobby may be much smaller than it appears. A review of archival press releases suggests that the US Chamber of Commerce—which will not disclose the names of its members—has vastly overstated its size in recent years, helping to make its controversial positions on health care and climate change look like a consensus of American

businesses. In testimony before Congress, statements to the press, and on its website, the Chamber claims to represent ‘3 million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions.’ In reality, the number is probably closer to 200,000.” [Mother Jones, [10/13/09](#)]

- **Chamber Changed Its Membership Numbers After Report.** According to Mother Jones, “A day after *Mother Jones* exposed the US Chamber of Commerce's inflated membership number, the Chamber quietly backed off the figure in its public statements. At a Washington press conference Wednesday morning unveiling the Chamber's Campaign for Free Enterprise, Chamber officials repeatedly cited a membership of 300,000. That's a tenth as many members as the Chamber claimed a day earlier, when a press release for the Washington event said the Chamber represented ‘more than 3 million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region.’” [Mother Jones, [10/14/09](#)]
- **Chamber Now Claims To Represent “The Interests Of More Than 3 Million Businesses.”** According to the Chamber’s website, “The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world’s largest business organization representing the interests of more than 3 million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions. Our members range from mom-and-pop shops and local chambers to leading industry associations and large corporations. They all share one thing in common—they count on the Chamber to be their voice in Washington, D.C.” [Chamber of Commerce, accessed [1/22/14](#)]

The Chamber’s Tax Filings Suggest “That Large Firms Dominate Its Funding.” According to the Economist, “The black-box nature of the Chamber makes deniability easier. As a ‘501(c)(6)’ non-profit, it has to list all donations over \$5,000 but not the names of the givers. Its latest tax filing, for 2010, includes dozens of pages of individual contributions, each with a blank in the ‘name’ field. (Only a handful of companies have voluntarily published their contributions.) Donations of \$1m or more accounted for over half of total contributions, suggesting that large firms dominate its funding.” [Economist, [4/21/12](#)]

In 2012, 62 Of The 300 Largest U.S. Companies Disclosed Donations To The Chamber. According to the Center for Public Integrity, “The Chamber received funds from at least 62 of the nation’s largest 300 companies, totaling nearly \$11 million, according to the voluntary disclosures.” [Center for Public Integrity, [1/16/14](#)]

The Health Insurance Industry Gave The Chamber Over \$100 Million To Fight Health Care Reform. According to National Journal, “The nation's leading health insurance industry group gave more than \$100 million to help fuel the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's 2009 and 2010 efforts to defeat President Obama's signature health care reform law, *National Journal's Influence Alley* has learned. During the final push to kill the bill before its March 2010 passage, America's Health Insurance Plans gave the chamber \$16.2 million. With the \$86.2 million the insurers funneled to the business lobbying powerhouse in 2009, AHIP sent the chamber a total of \$102.4 million during the health care reform debate, a number that has not been reported before now. The backchannel spending allowed insurers to publicly stake out a pro-reform position while privately funding the leading anti-reform lobbying group in Washington. The chamber spent tens of millions of dollars bankrolling efforts to kill health care reform.” [National Journal, [6/13/12](#)]

Koch-Affiliated Freedom Partners Donated \$3 Million To The Chamber In 2013. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce reported two

separate donations of \$2 million and \$1 million to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in a September 15, 2013 IRS filing. [Center for Responsive Politics, Viewed [12/16/13](#)]

HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Heritage's Various Explanations For Opposing Increases In The Minimum Wage

Heritage Foundation: Raising Minimum Wage Is “A Very Bad Idea, Not Only For The Economy As A Whole, But For The Low-Wage Workers It Is Supposed To Help.” According to a column by Heritage Foundation founder Ed Feulner, “Hike the minimum wage. For politicians trying to show their concern for those on the lower rungs of the economic ladder, it’s a simple solution. It’s catching on again, with several states and municipalities approving local hikes, and a proposal before Congress to hike it by an unprecedented amount, from \$7.25 to \$10.10 per hour over the next two years. Unfortunately, this seemingly obvious remedy is also a very bad idea, not only for the economy as a whole, but for the low-wage workers it is supposed to help. Indeed, studies show that the latest congressional hike would likely eliminate some 300,000 jobs per year and lower our national economic output by more than \$40 billion annually. Why? Because raising the cost of labor naturally makes it more expensive to hire, leading cash-strapped employers with no choice but to slow down or freeze hiring.” [Heritage.org, [12/14/13](#)]

- **Heritage Foundation: “Relatively Few People Actually Earn The Minimum Wage,” And “Many Of Today’s Entrepreneurs And Success Stories Began Their Careers In Very Humble Employment Circumstances.”** According to a column by Heritage Foundation founder Ed Feulner, “That, incidentally, is the great truth that all too many people on both sides overlook: Relatively few people actually earn the minimum wage. Less than 3 percent of all workers earn \$7.25 an hour. For the vast majority of low-skilled or unskilled workers, that amount is simply a starting salary that gets them in the door and gives them a chance to advance. [...] Many of today’s entrepreneurs and success stories began their careers in very humble employment circumstances. ‘Actress Patricia Richardson, star of the ABC sitcom ‘Home Improvement’, scrubbed bathroom floors and toilets in a hotel,’ notes Policy Review.” [Heritage.org, [12/14/13](#)]

In 2011, Heritage Suggested A Minimum Wage Hike Was To Blame For The Financial Crisis And Great Recession. According to the Heritage Foundation, “When the minimum wage increased from \$5.15 to \$7.25 between 2006 and 2009 – a dramatic 40% rise – unemployment noticeably took a turn for the worse and the trend continues today. Thanks to the minimum wage; the poor, teenagers and specifically young, African-American males have lost many opportunities to find work. The well-intentioned increase in minimum wage has done nothing to help those for which it was intended.” [Heritage.org, [5/16/11](#)]

In 2009, Heritage Declared That “Congress Should Postpone The Minimum Wage Increase Until Unemployment Among The Most Affected Workers Returns To Normal Levels.” According to the Heritage Foundation, “Already facing weak demand and flattening wage growth, businesses cannot afford an artificial 10 percent increase in their labor costs. Even supporters of raising the minimum wage should recognize that the government should not stimulate job losses in the middle of a recession. Congress should postpone the minimum wage increase until

unemployment among the most affected workers returns to normal levels.” [Heritage Foundation, [7/23/09](#)]

In 2006, Heritage Claimed “A Wage Hike Will Not Significantly Help The Poor” Because It Will “Reduce The Amount Of Government Benefits For Many Workers.” According to the Heritage Foundation, “Contrary to the arguments of those who would raise the minimum wage, a wage hike will not significantly help the poor. A wage hike will reduce the amount of government benefits for many workers, resulting in a modest improvement in income at best. In some cases, low-income workers may suffer a reduction in total income.” [Heritage.org, [8/4/06](#)]

Right-Wing Foundations Controlled By Wealthy Conservatives Fund Heritage

The Heritage Foundation Has Received \$10 Million From The Richard And Helen DeVos Foundation Since 2007. [Richard and Helen DeVos Foundation IRS Forms 990, 2007-2012]

Heritage Foundation’s DeVos Center For Religion And Civil Society Promotes “The Indispensable Role Of Family And Religion” On Issues “From Economics To Health Care To Foreign Policy.” According to the Heritage Foundation’s website, “The Richard and Helen DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society examines the role that religion, family, and community plan [*sic*] in society and public policy. America’s Founders understood that the family is part of the foundation of a free society, and that religious liberty is the first freedom and an important guarantor of a just society. Today more than ever, these critical institutions need to be strengthened and protected at the level of both principle and policy. Thanks to a grant from the Richard and Helen DeVos Foundation of Grand Rapids, Michigan, The Heritage Foundation in 2004 established the DeVos Center as a way to improve public discourse on these issues and to integrate serious reflection on the role of family, religion, and civil society across policy areas. The Heritage Foundation’s approach to family and religion emphasizes these permanent institutions’ role in sustaining freedom and the common good. We seek to convey the indispensable role of family and religion in our American order and in our conservative philosophy. Building on the significant research compiled in recent years, the DeVos Center endeavors to shape a healthy discourse that appreciates the historic and continuing significance of religion and moral virtue in American life. We work closely with all Heritage research departments to apply these principles to policy issues from economics to health care to foreign policy.” [Heritage.org, accessed [9/10/12](#)]

- **Richard Devos Is The Billionaire “Co-Founder Of Amway And Owner Of The Orlando Magic.”** According to Forbes, “Other than possibly the Koch brothers, few billionaires have a more established place in conservative America than the DeVos clan. Richard M. DeVos, co-founder of Amway and owner of the Orlando Magic, is No. 60 on the Forbes 400. He and his wife are regular donors to the Republican Party. The couple’s foundation gives out millions each year, focusing on Christian and conservative organizations such as Focus on the Family and the American Enterprise Institute.” [Forbes, [12/26/11](#)]
- **Richard DeVos Has A Net Worth Of \$6.8 Billion.** According to Forbes, as of September 2013, Richard Devos has a net worth of \$6.8 billion. [Forbes, accessed [1/24/14](#)]
- **Mother Jones: “DeVos Family Members Have Invested At Least \$200 Million In A Host Of Right-Wing Causes.”** According to Mother Jones, “The DeVoses sit alongside

the Kochs, the Bradleys, and the Coorses as founding families of the modern conservative movement. Since 1970, DeVos family members have invested at least \$200 million in a host of right-wing causes—think tanks, media outlets, political committees, evangelical outfits, and a string of advocacy groups. They have helped fund nearly every prominent Republican running for national office and underwritten a laundry list of conservative campaigns on issues ranging from charter schools and vouchers to anti-gay-marriage and anti-tax ballot measures. “There's not a Republican president or presidential candidate in the last 50 years who hasn't known the DeVoses,” says Saul Anuzis, a former chairman of the Michigan Republican Party.” [Mother Jones, [January/February 2014](#)]

- **Mother Jones: “The Koch Brothers Can Usually Expect Richard And his Wife, Helen, To Attend Their Biannual Donor Meetings.”** According to Mother Jones, “The family fortune flows from 87-year-old Richard DeVos Sr. The son of poor Dutch immigrants, he cofounded the multilevel-marketing giant Amway with Jay Van Andel, a high school pal, in 1959. Five decades later, the company now sells \$11 billion a year worth of cosmetics, vitamin supplements, kitchenware, air fresheners, and other household products. Amway has earned DeVos Sr. at least \$6 billion; in 1991, he expanded his empire by buying the NBA's Orlando Magic. The Koch brothers can usually expect Richard and his wife, Helen, to attend their biannual donor meetings. He is a lifelong Christian conservative and crusader for free markets and small government, values he passed down to his four children.” [Mother Jones, [January/February 2014](#)]
- **Richard DeVos’ Son, Dick, ‘Orchestrated’ The Passage Of Anti-Union “Right-To-Work” Legislation In Michigan.** According to Mother Jones, “Today, his eldest son, Dick, is the face of the DeVos political dynasty. Like his father, Dick sees organized labor as an enemy of freedom and union leaders as violent thugs who have ‘an almost pathological obsession with power.’ But while DeVos Sr. simply inveighed against unions, Dick took the fight to them directly, orchestrating a major defeat for the unions in the cradle of the modern labor movement. Passing right-to-work in Michigan was more than a policy victory. It was a major score for Republicans who have long sought to weaken the Democratic Party by attacking its sources of funding and organizing muscle.” [Mother Jones, [January/February 2014](#)]

The Heritage Foundation Has Received Almost \$4 Million From The Sarah Scaife Foundation Since 2007. According to publicly available tax documents, the Sarah Scaife Foundation contributed \$3,800,000 to the Heritage Foundation between 2007 and 2012. [Sarah Scaife Foundation IRS Form 990, 2007-2012]

- **Richard Mellon Scaife Is Vice Chairman Of The Heritage Foundation’s Board Of Trustees.** According to the Heritage Foundation’s website, Richard Mellon Scaife, the publisher and owner of Tribune-Review Publishing Co., is vice chairman of Heritage’s Board of Trustees, on which he has served since 1985. [Heritage.org, accessed [1/24/13](#)]
- **The Sarah Scaife Foundation, With Assets Over \$260 Million, Is One Of Three Foundations Controlled By Richard Mellon Scaife.** According to Richard Mellon Scaife’s bio on the Heritage Foundation website, “One of the Pittsburgh area's leading philanthropists - he chairs the Sarah Scaife Foundation, The Allegheny Foundation and the Carthage Foundation - Scaife is a frequent speaker and commentator on U.S. strategic

interests.” According to the Sarah Scaife Foundation’s IRS Form 990 for 2011, the organization is a 501(c)(3) foundation based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Its assets 2011 were worth \$263,578,943. [Heritage.org, accessed [1/24/13](#); Sarah Scaife Foundation IRS Form 990, 2011]

- **“Richard Mellon Scaife Is An Heir To The Fortune Amassed By Great Uncle, Banker And Industrialist Andrew Mellon.”** According to Forbes, “Richard Mellon Scaife is an heir to the fortune amassed by great uncle, banker and industrialist Andrew Mellon. In 1970, Scaife purchased the Greensburg Tribune-Review, a suburban Pittsburgh newspaper. In 1992, he took advantage of a citywide newspaper strike to turn it into the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, now the city's second-largest newspaper and the centerpiece of his Trib Total Media, a media company with newspapers and radio stations throughout Western Pennsylvania. He is also the minority owner of Newsmax, a conservative website and digital magazine.” As of September 2013, Scaife has a net worth of \$1.4 billion. [Forbes, accessed [1/24/14](#)]