Pennsylvania Should Join Neighboring States in Raising Wages and Boosting the Economy

People have been hurt by COVID-19. Now is the time to raise the minimum wage to lift family incomes, help working people afford necessities, recognize front-line workers, restore local economies to health, and save tax dollars.

Who are the workers in Rep. Jack Rader's district (HD 176) that would benefit from a $15 minimum wage?

36 %
of the workforce

8,000 workers

32%
are over age 40

only **18%** are 19 or younger

37%
are people of color

61%
are women

43%
work full-time

46%
have some or more college

21%
are parents

We are asking legislators to stand with working families, local businesses, and their communities. They should

- co-sponsor HB1215.
- join local activists and host a minimum wage hearing in their district.
- vote for HB1215.

Reasons to Pass Legislation to Raise the Minimum Wage

It's good for workers, business, and the economy—especially now.

- The minimum wage was created in 1938 in wake of the Great Depression to lift up working people and jump-start the economy. We need that same boost now!
- Pennsylvania is behind. Workers in the same job earn less in PA than someone in Ohio, Maryland, West Virginia, New Jersey, New York, and 24 other states.

It rewards hard work and saves tax dollars.

- No one who works full time should live in poverty.
- When the minimum wage reaches $15 an hour, more than 27% of Pennsylvania workers—1.6 million people—will see their income grow.
- After 2027, the minimum wage will continue to rise with inflation, protecting working people over the long term.
- A minimum wage of $15 will generate $300 million for the state budget in new tax revenues and reduce safety net expenditures.

It lets workers keep their tips and get a fair paycheck.

- Creating one fair wage eliminates the lower minimum wage of only $2.38 for tipped workers—two-thirds of whom are women.
- Eliminating the tipped minimum wage will reduce the gender pay gap and sexual harassment of tipped workers.
- The 7 states with one fair wage have less sexual harassment, and their restaurant industries are flourishing.

It allows local communities and the state to protect workers.

- Counties and municipalities would be allowed to raise the minimum wage even higher to match local conditions.
- State and local communities would be empowered to stop wage theft.

Source: Keystone Research Center analysis based on Economic Policy Institute estimates for the state of Pennsylvania.