

# 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. Wendi Thomas's district (HD 178) that would benefit from a \$15 minimum wage?

**27 %**  
of the workforce

**7,000** workers

**31%**  
are over age 40

only **22%** are 19 or younger

**34%**  
are people of color

**59%**  
are women

**43%**  
work full-time

**40%**  
have some or  
more college

**23%**  
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.