



## Small Business Owners for Increasing Virginia's Minimum Wage – Feb. 6, 2020

We are small business owners and leaders in Virginia who support the Virginia General Assembly raising the minimum wage to \$15 within a reasonable time period. We understand that there are several bills being considered that would increase the minimum wage in steps that would get to \$15 by 2024 or 2025. We support raising Virginia's minimum wage because:

**1) Workers are more productive when they are paid living wages.** When our employees can afford to feed their families and pay their rent, they are more productive and less stressed.

**2) Consumers can better afford our products and services.** Studies show that increasing the minimum wage increases economic activity in our communities because workers who are paid at or close to the minimum wage will spend most of their increased wages in our communities.

**3) Reducing poverty improves our communities.** Raising the minimum wage will reduce the number of families who live in poverty. Reducing poverty improves children's ability to learn, reduces crime, and increases taxes – all good things for our communities.

**4) Raising the minimum wage is morally and ethically the right thing to do.** Many of us are active in our community's churches, temples, synagogues and mosques. We are business owners and leaders who are guided by our faith traditions' guidelines about caring for our neighbors.

We understand the struggles that small business owners face. We have often juggled budgets and personnel to make ends meet, but we believe that businesses should not be built by paying workers poverty wages. We urge the Virginia General Assembly to raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour within a reasonable time period.

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