

Dear Business and Labor Committee,

I am writing this letter because I am greatly concerned with the direction of our State. There are a number of new bills being presented that would be devastating to our economy, like HB 2009 that is proposing an increase to the minimum wage. I own a small business that employs four people who on average make about \$12/hour. If minimum wage is increased to \$15/hour that means I will be spending an additional \$3/hour per person which is an increase of \$12/hour for the four employees I have, which is basically the same as adding another employee. This is an expense that I just can't afford and therefore would have to scale back to 3 employees to be able to stay profitable. All businesses small or large throughout Oregon would be faced with the same decision. Just stop and think about how many have employees that make less than \$15/hour or are part time workers, these companies would have no choice but to scale back and/or close their doors. Not only will the unemployment rate drastically increase, general cost of living will increase too, how else will businesses be able to stay profitable without raising prices? To put it into another perspective think about your normal monthly personal expenses, your house is generally the most expensive cost you have, right? Most businesses largest expense is their employees, so if you suddenly had a 61.6% increase in your house payment, which is the amount of increase proposed for minimum wage, what would you do?

This is just one of the many proposed bills that seem to be aimed at destroying small business in Oregon, to name a few others; Senate Bills 19, 718, 845, 454, and House Bills 2007, 2386, 2606, 2764, 3377 are all detrimental to business in Oregon and will deter businesses from staying or coming to this state. There needs to be some thought put into these bills and how they will affect small business, and since the private sector is what supports the government, who would fund the government if you push out all the small businesses that keep it going?

Sincerely,



Nick Conklin