

I am a member of a church that employs a number of people who mostly work part time. They are dedicated members of our congregation and are working because they love our church and what we believe in and how we help those in our community. I suspect that many of them work for less wages than they could get elsewhere because it is a way for them to be giving to our church and the many programs that we provide.

If we have to pay them these artificial wages that you are proposing we will probably have to either cut way back on their hours or even let them go. As a church we do not have a product to sell that we can raise the price on so our members, many who are retired and live on Social Security and did not even get a cost of living increase this year, will probably not be able to increase giving to cover the increased costs of your mandated wages. This means that some of our wonderful programs that provide service to our community will have to be cut back or maybe some deleted so that we can divert funds to pay these artificial wages dictated by the State of Oregon.

I urge you not to meddle with all of the nuances of the wage market and let employees and employers determine what are fair wages to be paid.

Thank You,
Jim Persing
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