

## To the bill

This committee and the legislature in general cannot create unity without all parties or everyone's agreement.

Without the legislature bringing the different parties together it creates an environment where the citizens do not trust the government and feel that elected officials merely respond to those having the greatest influence.

During the last public testimony the committee room was largely made up of those in support of increasing the minimum wage. Another group represented the small business community and discussed the negative impact the minimum wage would have on Oregon businesses and employment in general.

There was a small group of those on fixed incomes. There was no discussion on how an increase in the minimum wage would affect their standard of living and survival. Those on fixed income represent the imminent poor. Those on fixed income experience increasing costs, medical expenses, home care (\$2,000) and care facilities (\$4,000). Those on fixed income working may not be an option. And they may live alone.

It was not uncommon for those testifying in support of increasing the minimum wage to use examples that represented the affect of their choices.

“When did we accept the responsibility to be their parent? When did we assume responsibility for their choices? Examples: 1)choices for work 2) their life style 3) decision on having children 4) their definition for entitlements.4) what spending are they willing to postpone.

*--Since 1970 or 35 years births out of wedlock have increased from 10% to 40%. ---- Married Adults declined from 75% in 1960 to 50%. ---Living together 50% women by age 40 compared to less than 1% in 1960.*

When I looked at the older people in the room on fixed income, I wondered what they thought about the testimony. How many choices did they have during the Depression, the second world war and Korea What choices were available to those leaving for Vietnam. I'm not opposed to addressing the need for increasing the minimum wage as long as we're not paying for individual choices. I would support an increase in minimum wage as long as options were created that all parties were in agreement.

My recommendation; Postpone the minimum wage increase until options are developed that would be acceptable to all parties.

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GENERAL COMMENTS. I WILL NOT TAKE TIME DURING ORAL TESTIMONY



THOSE ON A FIXED INCOME DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE



**Downtrodden Children of the migrant fruit worker in Berrien County, Michigan.**



**Mother and father and several children of a family of nine living in open field in rough board covering built on old Ford chassis on U.S. Route 70**

**THOSE ON A FIXED INCOME DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE**