



FROM THE DESK OF
REPRESENTATIVE:
JOSEPH GALLEGOS

Oregon Social Workers urge you to vote "Yes" on SB 1532

- The National Association of Social Workers believes increasing the minimum wage is a step in the right direction to reduce income inequality.
- Social workers see the devastating effects low wages have on the state's most vulnerable populations.
- Economic insecurity contributes to a vast range of issues including: mental illness, family violence, suicide, substance abuse, crime, and homelessness. The cost of managing these problems is staggering; an ounce of minimum wage increase is worth a pound of treatment, law enforcement, and hospitalization.
- In 2014, 71% of poverty-affected Oregonian families with children had at least one working parent, so raising the minimum wage will directly combat poverty.
- Oregonians of color are disproportionately represented among Oregonians who earn the minimum wage; increase is an efficient and effective way to reduce long-standing racial disparities.
- In today's day and age it's no longer the case that minimum wage jobs are reserved for high school students. Many parents, including single parents, and adults of all ages are stuck in minimum wage jobs unable to keep up with growing costs in today's economy, specifically high costs of housing.
- The bill accommodates for counties where the cost of living is lower than others. And, provides time for business to adopt the wage increases, so they can plan it into their budgets.
- The bill gives low to minimum wage workers the tools they need to afford to live where they work and buy the essential products they need to survive.
- When Oregon made a minimum wage increase of comparable proportion in 1989, the state experienced an enduring strengthening of small businesses and job availability.
- Now is the right time to phase in minimum wage increases, because Oregonians need to be able to earn enough to survive and live with dignity.