

NEED TO KNOW FACTS ABOUT MINIMUM WAGE

- * **Raising the minimum wage values work** -- A full-time worker making minimum wage earns \$10,712 before Social Security and Medicare taxes.
- * **Raising the minimum wage, currently at \$5.15, values the family** -- The majority of minimum wage workers support families; increasing the minimum wage would guarantee thousands of Virginia workers an increase in their take home pay.
- * **Raising the minimum wage values children** -- Children are the greatest beneficiaries of raising the minimum wage and their parents and caretakers develop more stability and satisfaction in their jobs.
- * **Raising the minimum wage currently at \$5.15, values independence** -- Raising the minimum wage would reduce workers' dependence on government and community services.
- * **Raising the minimum wage values community responsibility** -- Workers who earn more contribute more to their communities through buying more goods, paying more taxes, and increasing their contributions to Social Security and Medicare. It also increases the workers' stake in their communities and neighborhoods.
- * **35 percent of workers who receive the minimum wage are the sole earners for their families** -- 61 percent are women and 1 in 3 of those women are raising children.
- * **Small businesses perform better in states with higher minimum wages** -- Between 1998 and 2004, the job growth for small businesses in states with a minimum wage higher than the federal level was 6.2 percent compared to a 4.1 percent growth in states where the federal level prevailed.

- * **The minimum wage increase in 1997 led to the best job performance in decades in the low-wage labor market.**
- * **Between 1998 and 2001, the number of small business establishments grew twice as quickly in states with higher minimum wages.**
- * **Retail employment grew 1.5 times more quickly in high minimum wage states.**
- * **Annual and average payroll growth was faster in higher minimum wage states.**

Sources: Economic Policy Institute, Center for American Progress, Fiscal Policy Institute and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Virginia Fair Wage Alliance
www.VAFAIRWAGE.org
