



SAN MATEO COUNTY UNION COMMUNITY ALLIANCE
1153 Chess Drive, Suite 200, Foster City, CA 94404
Serving Workers and their Families

8 April 2016

To San Mateo City Council Members
c/o Assistant City Manager Matt Bronson
mbronson@cityofsanmateo.org

From Bradley Cleveland,
Raise the Wage – San Mateo
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Re Business and the Minimum Wage Ordinance.

Attached you will find a number of documents from the Raise the Wage Coalition for your review as you consider a local Minimum Wage Ordinance.

Re business and the minimum wage

Both the Main Street Alliance and the Small Business Majority support increases in the minimum wage. I've attached excerpts from their reports:

- "Voices of Main Street;" full report available from <http://www.mainstreetalliance.org/voicesofmainstreet2015>
- "The Agenda for America's Economic Future: Minimum Wage;" full report from <http://www.smallbusinessmajority.org/economic-agenda/>

The National Employment Law Project published, "Big Business, Corporate Profits and the Minimum Wage," which found that large businesses – not small businesses – employ the vast majority of low-wage workers.

The Washington Post ran an article about a poll of a 1.000 business executives that showed 80 percent of respondents supported raising their state's minimum wage. Both those documents are also attached.

Re the "Benefits Cliff"

The Center of Budget and Policy Priorities published, "It Pays to Work: Work Incentives and the Safety Net," which concludes that changes to public assistance programs have largely eliminated the so-called benefits cliff. "Adults in poverty are significantly better off if they get a job, work more hours, or receive a wage hike."

As I mentioned previously, the UC Berkeley Labor Center has conducted a number of studies on the positive economic impacts of local minimum wage ordinances. The Labor Center's studies show that small businesses benefit from the increased economic activity associated with a minimum wage hike. Their material is available at <http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/topic/minimum-wage-living-wage/>.

Last November, the coalition presented the Council with what we consider a model Minimum Wage Ordinance. Since that time, we modified the proposed language regarding a collective bargaining waiver. I've attached the revised MWO for your perusal.

Thanks for your time, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Attachments

- Main Street Alliance, "Voices of Main Street"
- Small Business Majority, "The Agenda for America's Economic Future: Minimum Wage"
- NELP, "Big Business, Corporate Profits and the Minimum Wage"
- *Washington Post* article, "Leaked documents show strong business support for raising the minimum wage"
- CBPP, "It Pays to Work: Work Incentives and the Safety Net"
- Wage Coalition's Model MWO