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Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 10:45 AM

Subject: RE: S.40 - Minimum Wage - in House General

I'd like to follow up with the committee on a couple of points.

Maine Policy Brief on Small Business Compensation

One of the members asked if we had done studies in states similar to Vermont (in terms of urban/rural populations), and we in fact had done one for Maine—which is the most similar to Vermont in terms of urban/rural populations. I mentioned this analysis in my answer and offered to forward it to the committee. The policy brief is attached and can also be found here: <http://www.nelp.org/content/uploads/Policy-Brief-12-Minimum-Wage-Maine-Benefits-Workers-Businesses-Economy.pdf>.

Small Business Polls

Another members asked whether a poll of business owners by **LuntzGlobal** that I mentioned during my testimony, had specifically polled on a \$15 minimum wage increase, or whether it had polled on increasing the minimum wage in general, without reference to a specific amount. The answer is that it was a general question. See the Washington Post story here: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2016/04/04/leaked-documents-show-strong-business-support-for-raising-the-minimum-wage/?utm_term=.b51a56ef75e0.

However, there are other polls that have specifically tested business support for a \$15 minimum wage. For example, a **2016 nationwide** poll by Manta shows that a majority of small business owners support a minimum wage increase, and of those who support it, the largest share support a \$15 minimum wage increase: <https://www.manta.com/resources/small-business-research/poll-small-business-owners-support-15-minimum-wage-april-2016/>. And an **April 2018 poll** of small businesses in California, New York and Washington, DC.—all of which have adopted a \$15 minimum wage law—shows that a strong majority (68 percent) of small businesses in those jurisdictions support the \$15 minimum wage laws: <http://www.cpapracticeadvisor.com/news/12406512/how-the-15-minimum-wage-is-affecting-small-businesses>.

Of interest is also a **March 2018 survey by the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)**, which finds that finding and retaining *labor quality* is one of the main issues small businesses currently worry about, not wages. In fact, NFIB states that small businesses have “...been so optimistic that they feel confident enough to raise wages and invest in their business, which grows the economy...A net 19 percent reported plans to raise compensation in response to the tight labor market.” The report can be found here: <https://www.nfib.com/surveys/small-business-economic-trends/>.

Thank you so much.

Best,
Yannet