We oppose AJR10* the Constitutional Amendment to raise the minimum wage to $12 an hour unless the Federal Government raises it higher. Recently the U.S. House of Representatives voted for a $15 minimum wage which did not pass the U.S. Senate.

“A new report from the Congressional Budget Office estimates the Democrats’ proposal will kill 1.4 million jobs. Meanwhile, this month, a CNBC/SurveyMonkey poll of small businesses showed that one-third said they would lay off workers if the minimum wage went to $15 an hour.”*

The minimum wage is designed for entry level jobs which will be eliminated depriving young people of work experience and opportunities. Higher minimum wage laws hurt the very people they are supposed to help including minorities, low skill workers and teenagers. However, increases in the minimum wage do benefit unions.

The National Bureau of Economic Research, Authors Jeffrey Clemens and Michael Wither find that significant minimum wage increases can negatively affect employment, average income, and the economic mobility of low-skilled workers. They find that significant “minimum wage increases reduced the employment, average income, and income growth of low-skilled workers over short and medium-run time horizons.” Most troublingly, these low-skilled workers saw “significant declines in economic mobility,” as these workers were 5 percentage points less likely to reach lower middle-class earnings in the medium-term. **

In an article by Walter Williams “Elitist Arrogance on Minimum Wage Hurts Minorities” he says, “Supporters of a $15 minimum wage are now admitting that there will be job losses. ‘Why shouldn’t we in fact accept job loss?’ asks New School economics professor David Howell, adding, ‘What’s so bad about getting rid of crappy jobs…”

Williams continues, “What’s a ‘crappy job’? My guess is that many of my friends and I held the jobs Howell is talking about as teenagers …During summers, we arose early to board farm trucks to New Jersey to pick blueberries. I washed dishes and mopped floors at Philadelphia's Horn & Hardart restaurant, helped unload trucks at Campbell Soup, shoveled snow, swept out stores, delivered packages and did similar low-skill, low-wage jobs.”

AJR10* will hurt the most vulnerable minorities, low skilled workers and teenagers. Oppose AJR10*. Thank you.

*https://lockerroom.johnlocke.org/2021/02/17/minimum-wage-increases-will-hurt-the-poor-minorities-do-supporters-care/
**https://www.investors.com/politics/columnists/walter-williams-elitist-arrogance-on-minimum-wage-hurts-minorities/**

***https://www.cato.org/blog/new-study-finds-minimum-wage-increases-hurt-low-skilled-workers***