

California moves forward with minimum wage increase

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Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton also joined Cuomo shortly after saying, "This is a real watershed".

"These policies will not only lift up the current generation of low-wage workers and their families, but ensure fairness for future generations and enable them to climb the ladder of opportunity", Cuomo said at a ceremony in New York City.

The article also states that with recent data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, it indicates that with \$15 in California it'll buy *much* less than it would in other states.

California's new statewide minimum hourly wage target of \$15 - the highest in the country - could have implications in OH, where more than a quarter of all jobs are in low-wage occupations, federal data shows.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, center, signs a law that will gradually raise New York's minimum wage to \$15, at the Javits Convention Center, in New York, Monday, April 4, 2016. The mood was jubilant, nearly delirious, in anticipation of Governor Jerry Brown's arrival to sign the measure, known as Senate Bill 3.

Republicans and business leaders opposed the statewide minimum-wage hike, arguing it will lead to businesses reducing the size of their work force or increasing prices to cover the costs of the increased wages.

The day of campaigning in New York State began with Secretary Clinton in New York City with Governor Cuomo as he signed the newly approved minimum wage increase phase-in into law.

Brown says the most populous state's fast-growing economy can absorb the raises.

Some 5.6 million Californians, about a third of the state's workforce, will eventually get a raise under the new law, according to a UC Berkeley study.

The California bill will bump the state's \$10 hourly minimum by 50 cents next year and to \$11 in 2018.

Fourteen states and several cities began 2016 with minimum wage increases, typically phasing in raises that will ultimately take them to between \$10 and \$15 an hour.

Brown said that although minimum wages might not make complete sense economically, "morally and socially and politically they make every sense".

"This is about economic justice, it's about people", said Governor Brown. Other parts of the state will see minimum wage increases at a later time.

Citing research from the right-leaning CATO Institute, Lawson wrote in a brief last month that a 10 percent increase in the minimum wage would lead to half a percentage point reduction in the employment growth rate. In NYC, the minimum rises slightly each year from \$9 now to \$15 on December 31, 2018, at large businesses, on December 31, 2019, at small ones. "But now, we're getting into the territory in places like California where the minimum wage is rising by 50 percent, from \$10 to \$15".

Aside from the GOP, the new \$15 minimum wage has faced opposition from a number of key business figures.

Since July 2009, the federal minimum wage has been \$7.25.

US President Barack Obama welcomed New York's bill on Twitter, writing: "Nobody should have to choose between losing a paycheck & caring for their family".