



Wage bills to get Monday hearings in Salem

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SALEM — Oregon's Senate Committee on Workforce and House Committee on Business and Labor will hear testimony Monday on SB 610 and HB 2009, which would raise Oregon's minimum wage to \$15 by 2018.

The Fair Shot for All Coalition, a group of labor unions and social-justice advocates, is promoting minimum-wage legislation as a way to reduce the burden on social services and create markets for goods and services. When low-wage employees rely on social services, taxpayers are subsidizing corporate profits, the coalition says.

"An estimated 589,000 workers would see their wages rise if lawmakers raised the minimum wage to \$15 by 2018," said [an April 8 report](#) from the Oregon Center for Public Policy. "Some workers already earning above \$15 per hour would also see their wages rise. Over the three years that the increase would be phased in, lower-income workers as a group would gain about \$3.2 billion in added wages."

The report counters claims that a minimum-wage hike would hurt small businesses by saying that Oregon small businesses robustly increased in numbers and employment from 1988 to 2012, during which time the minimum wage increased 42 percent.

Opponents of minimum wage increases, such as the [Cato Institute](#), point to statistics saying few minimum-wage workers live in poor households. They cite [studies](#) blaming minimum-wage increases for reductions in jobs.