

Letter: Wage activists wrong on economics

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EDITOR: A recent letter claimed, "Families need minimum wage increase." Some among us need to stop thinking emotionally and consider facts, figures and economics. First, only 20.8 percent of all minimum-wage workers are family heads. Poor adults working [full time](#) at minimum wage to support a family actually are only 4.7 percent of workers. Government mandates on employers to provide a "living wage" are a farce.

According to the Cato Institute, most workers earning the minimum wage are young workers, part-time workers or workers from non-poor families. As economist Milton Friedman noted, "The minimum wage law is most properly described as a law saying employers must discriminate against people who have low skills."

The group behind the current campaign, Wisconsin Jobs Now, actually asks on their website, "Is it right that the greed of the wealthy trumps the needs of the 99 percent struggling to make ends meet on minimum wage?" Are they saying 99 percent are on minimum wage? That all employers are greedy and wealthy?

Most people applying for entry-level jobs do not want to earn a living; they want to make some of their own spending money, learn job skills and build a resume to document that they are good employees for their next job application.

Wisconsin's economy is down and unemployment is up. The minimum wage is a cheap political trick to make it look like the government is doing something helpful. Eliminate it and allow entry level workers and employers negotiate a mutually acceptable wage. Get Wisconsin working.

Jim Maas,

Rothschild

Editor's note: The writer is a Libertarian candidate for the 85th Assembly District.