

taking down words

Indiana politics...à la carte

RECENT COMMENTS

on [Monday Fun: The Reason Why It Always Pays To Double-Check Your Work](#)

[Jason](#) on [You're Outta Here: DePauw Sorority Winds Up In The National Limelight](#)

on [Nowhere Fast: Guv's Lottery Lease Plan May Not Clear GOP-Dominated Senate](#)

on [You're Outta Here: DePauw Sorority Winds Up In The National Limelight](#)

on [Super 70: What Do You Mean We Have To Tell The People What We're Doing?](#)

on [Citizen Unrest: Shelbyville Meeting Turns Into Another Indy Toll Road Debate](#)

[Speedway Democrat](#) on [Citizen Unrest: Shelbyville Meeting Turns Into Another Indy Toll Road Debate](#)

on [You're Outta Here: DePauw Sorority Winds Up In The National Limelight](#)

[TDW](#) on [Monday Fun: The Reason Why It Always Pays To Double-Check Your Work](#)

on [Monday Fun: The Reason Why It Always Pays To Double-Check Your Work](#)

CATEGORIES

[2007 Session](#)

[Caption Fun](#)

[Horse Races: City](#)

[Horse Races: County](#)

[Horse Races: Federal](#)

[Horse Races: Gubernatorial](#)

[« Run Away: Mayor's Cash, Popularity Force Out Realistic Republicans | Main | Rotten Tomatoes: Heinz Files Complaint To End "Red Gold Red Zone" »](#)

Wage On Stage: Committee Approves Increasing Minimum Pay To \$7.50 An Hour



Indiana is on its way to [increasing](#) the state's minimum wage after a House committee voted yesterday to up the amount to \$7.50 an hour by September of next year.

Not surprisingly, all the Republicans on the committee voted against the proposal, despite the fact that both the Guv and Dubya have said that they support a reasonable increase.

"Patti O'Callaghan, president of the Indiana Coalition for Human Services, said the minimum wage is at its lowest point in 50 years when adjusted for inflation and has 43 percent less buying power than in 1968.

"Increasing the minimum wage is a matter of fairness,' she said, noting it could help 143,000 Hoosier workers who make between the minimum wage and \$7.50.

"Supporters were peppered with questions from Republicans who opposed the bill, including several who wanted to debate the public policy of having a minimum wage, which has been the law in the nation since 1938.

"There are some situations where government should have a minimum,' said Rep. John Day, D-Indianapolis, the author of the bill. 'We're not asking for the sky here. This is not rocket science. This is not something new - just an old law we are simply adjusting.'

"Meanwhile, Rep. Mike Ripley, R-Monroe, started an uncomfortable exchange with a lobbyist for the Indiana Catholic Conference. Ripley challenged the Catholic Church's support based on a parable from the Bible, and interrupted the lobbyist several times when he tried to respond.

"Rep. Matt Bell, R-Avilla, took a more empirical approach, tossing statistics and famous quotations at the committee. He said 46 percent of minimum-wage workers in Indiana are

[Horse Races: Indiana House](#)

[Horse Races: Indiana Senate](#)

[Horse Races: Presidential](#)

[Horse Races: Statewide](#)

[Judicial Issues](#)

[Legislative Issues](#)

[Media News](#)

[News: Central Indiana](#)

[News: Federal](#)

[News: Northeast Indiana](#)

[News: Northwest Indiana](#)

[News: Southeast Indiana](#)

[News: Southwest Indiana](#)

[News: State Agencies](#)

[News: Statewide](#)

[Off The Beaten Track](#)

[Open Threads](#)

[Political Trends](#)

[Rumor Has It](#)

[Statehouse: Becky Skillman](#)

[Statehouse: Connie Nass](#)

[Statehouse: Dave Thomas](#)

[Statehouse: Jane Jankowski](#)

[Statehouse: Joel Silverman](#)

[Statehouse: Karl Browning](#)

[Statehouse: Kyle Hupfer](#)

[Statehouse: Mark Lubbers](#)

[Statehouse: Mickey Maurer](#)

[Statehouse: Mitch Daniels](#)

[Statehouse: Mitch Roob](#)

[Statehouse: Nate Feltman](#)

[Statehouse: Robert Carter](#)

[Statehouse: Ron Stiver](#)

[Statehouse: Steve Carter](#)

[Statehouse: Suellen Reed](#)

dependent children, and he wondered why proponents would advocate a higher wage for suburban teenagers.

"Opponents also stressed that raising the minimum wage could cause employers to cut jobs.

"But John Livengood, president of the Restaurant and Hospitality Association of Indiana, was perhaps the most practical. He said he believes a federal increase in the minimum wage is destined to become reality and the state should simply tie its bill to the federal standard to ease confusion for small businesses.

"The state's wage would go up in different increments and at slightly different times than the federal proposal.

"'It's going to happen,' Livengood said. 'Let's make it so there is less confusion in the marketplace.'"

Jan 19, 2007 at 12:42 PM | [Permalink](#)

COMMENTS

One of those suburban teenagers is going to lose their job. Some friends of mine own a fast food joint. They said that any hike in the min. wage means they work more and either someone loses a job or hours worked at cut back for their employees. They already pay over min. wage now as it is. They figure they will just put in a few more hours a week and save money.

Posted by: | [Jan 19, 2007 at 01:06 PM](#)

Those suburban teens have those jobs precisely because the minimum wage so low. Raise it so that people who need to work can afford to take those jobs. Junior and his prom queen can stay at home, study more, get to bed o time and do without all those clothes, CD's, video games and other misc. crap!

Posted by: | [Jan 19, 2007 at 01:08 PM](#)

The bill is a bureaucratic morass. Legislators pass written bills, not feelings ideas. It's written wrong and will not work as it is. Why did anyone vote for a bill that is technically wrong?

Posted by: | [Jan 19, 2007 at 01:40 PM](#)

Those teenagers buying clothes, CD's, video games, and other misc. crap is a healthy party of our economy. I guess you wouldn't mind seeing that spending/sales tax dry up?

Posted by: Brian | [Jan 19, 2007 at 03:01 PM](#)

As a early-mid career professional who works part-time on top of a full-time job in order to pay some bills (mostly student loans), the low wages were

[Statehouse: Tim Berry](#)

[Statehouse: Todd Rokita](#)

[Statehouse: Tom Sharp](#)

[What's New With TDW](#)

ARCHIVES

[February 26, 2007](#)

[February 25, 2007](#)

[February 23, 2007](#)

[February 22, 2007](#)

[February 21, 2007](#)

[February 20, 2007](#)

[February 19, 2007](#)

[February 18, 2007](#)

[February 17, 2007](#)

[February 16, 2007](#)

something I considered as far as how many hours of free time I would lose every week for not much less than the proposed minimum wage (plus downtown there's the added fee for parking--if I can't find a meter, it's usually about a half hour of my part-time pay). I'm guessing those of us in th situation would be OK giving up a few hours here and there if we make a little more per hour. That sounds like it's a rare situation, but most of my part-time coworkers working nights and weekends are in the same situation, so it's not just a few high school kids (who may also need the money to save for college so that all that studying in high school doesn't go to waste when their parents/scholarships can't pay their whole way)

Posted by: | [Jan 19, 2007 at 04:12 PM](#)

Actually Brian, no I wouldn't mind in the least. I'm a big fan of buying what you NEED, not always what you WANT. I think that teenagers when they worked for a little gas/movie money for the Friday night date wasn't a big deal. But nowadays they sacrifice both grades and sleep for a lot of crap the really don't need.

I actually would like to see a bill in the legislature requiring businesses who employ high school students to place half their wages in an educational savings plan to be used for post high school education. And basing an economy on the frivolous spending of teens is no way to run a country!

Posted by: MomTDW | [Jan 19, 2007 at 04:16 PM](#)

Has anyone ever thought that most people make minimum wage because that's what their skills or the job is worth?

Posted by: legalobserver | [Jan 19, 2007 at 04:29 PM](#)

I see you want to spare the rod and spoil the child more so than we already do 1:08?

These kids and working flipping burgers and throwing stock to keep them ou of trouble. And at the same time, they learn how things are in the real world...punching a clock each day, paying taxes, and learning to take care c themselves and be independent.

Now going back to the whole idea of raising the minimum wage, the only thing that accomplishes is driving up inflation and sending jobs overseas where people will work for pennies an hour.

What do you think is happening to all of America's high-paying manufacturin jobs...they're being shipped to China and Mexico where labor is cheap because these companies realize that they can get the same quality of product from a worker in China making 25 cents an hour as they could from an American worker making 20 dollars an hour. Simple business math.

Posted by: D.P. | [Jan 19, 2007 at 06:40 PM](#)

Actually, most of the workers I see in Fast Food places are now Mexicians...

Posted by: BOO | [Jan 19, 2007 at 09:23 PM](#)

I worked 20 hours a week in High School and I feel like I am a better person because of it.

My spending was not frivoulous. I worked to pay for my own car, my own gas, my own automobile insurance, my own lunch money, my own "date" money and saving for college. I didn't go out and just waste it, like most sterotypes

I think bumping the minimum wage to be in line with inflation is probably okay. A nominal increase is not going to make that big of a difference.

Posted by: | [Jan 19, 2007 at 09:49 PM](#)

Will raising the minimum wage higher salaries in general? Or lower pay for some?

Posted by: | [Jan 20, 2007 at 12:18 AM](#)

"Actually, most of the workers I see in Fast Food places are now Mexicans"

So true, something that has become apparent since the start of 2000. And I wouldn't say "Mexicans" alone, I would say at least SOME illegal aliens, b/c v all know its true.

Posted by: | [Jan 20, 2007 at 12:22 AM](#)

You can learn to be on time and take responsibility in school. You don't need to get a paycheck for that. As for the tax thing, most will pay little if any because they don't make enough money and yet mom and dad are still getting a deduction.

I still advocate educational savings accounts for those who work and maybe Suzy and Johnny are going to be able to afford meals, cars, gas and insurance, their parents don't need to be able to take them as deductions.

As a former teacher, I didn't see anything good coming out of kids working (save for the few who actually had to put food on the table at home). I just saw tired kids who thought their job slinging hamburgers was more important than their math homework!

Posted by: | [Jan 20, 2007 at 08:19 AM](#)

only communists would suggest not letting teens spend their hard-earned wages however they want. Then why don't we do the same for poor people? We take their wages and freeze parts to put them in a retirement or rent fund... there's a dumb idea.

Posted by: | [Jan 20, 2007 at 11:09 AM](#)

Well, 11:09, only an idiot would compare teenagers and poor people.

Posted by: MoCo Mercenary (ret.) | [Jan 20, 2007 at 11:49 AM](#)

I guess I failed to mention that in addition to working 20+ hours a week I also graduated in the top 10% of my class with an Academic Honors Diploma. I was involved with tons of organizations, and now attend college on a scholarship.

Posted by: | [Jan 20, 2007 at 01:33 PM](#)

I'd like to commend you on your hard work 1:33. And for the rest of us out there, there's a correlation between high schoolers who hold a job and better grades at school.

That's because the kids that go to work at age 16 quickly learn that if you want something, you have to go out and work for it. Nothing is free in life, and the ones who need to learn that lesson most are the slugs, drug addicts and deadbeats leaching off the system (welfare), for whom I have no sympathy and ZERO respect.

Posted by: | [Jan 20, 2007 at 07:40 PM](#)

Amen 7:40!

Posted by: | [Jan 21, 2007 at 11:04 AM](#)

POST A COMMENT

If you have a TypeKey or TypePad account, please [Sign In](#)

Name:

Email Address:

URL:

Remember personal info?

Comments:

Preview

Post