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Vote 'Yes' on S.40

February 9, 2018

Dear members of the Vermont Senate,

Income inequality damages our economy and leaves working Vermont families falling further behind. Increasing the minimum wage is an important tool in boosting household income for struggling Vermonters and that's why we ask you to vote 'yes' on *S.40, an act relating to increasing the minimum wage*.

Recent economic gains have not made up for the lost spending power of working families – real household income for the bottom 60% of Vermonters increased by 3% in 2016, but were still below real earnings in 1999, according to the Legislature's Joint Fiscal Office.

Who benefits from a minimum wage in Vermont?

Average worker is 38 years old
88% of them are older than 20 years old
45% are over 40.
56% are women.
22% have children.
62% work full time.

Much of the job growth in Vermont since the end of the most recent recession has been in low-wage sectors – the type of jobs that do not come close to meeting the state's basic standards of living. More than 12,000 of the jobs created in Vermont since 2009 pay less than the average Vermont wage in 2017.

S.40 is a fair compromise that boosts the paychecks of working Vermonters while also considering the economic realities facing small and independent businesses and the significant contributions they make in terms of wages and benefits.

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