Raise the Wage Act

Congress recently passed legislation to raise the federal minimum hourly wage from $7.25 to $15 by 2025. The raises would come in the following increments: **$8.4** 2019, **$9.5** 2020, **$10.6** 2021, **$11.7** 2022, **$12.8** 2023, **$13.9** 2024 and **$15** 2025. The federal minimum hourly wage has been at $7.25 since 2009. Our congressman Chuck Fleishmann voted against the bill. He stated he voted no because of the possible negative effects of raising the minimum wage which are listed below:

1. CBO estimates that 1.3 million workers could lose their jobs.
2. Business profits reduced
3. Prices on goods and produce could increase

There are positive effects of raising the minimum wage which are listed below:

1. Lifts millions of Americans out of poverty
2. Increased worker productivity and decreased turnover
3. Boosts Economy: Estimates show that 33 million would have their pay increase translating to a $2750 annual increase in pay per worker most of which would go right back into the economy.
4. Increases Federal tax revenues and decreases spending on welfare programs thus reducing the national debt.

10 years is too long without an increase in the federal minimum wage. The United States should be working toward a living wage which per the MIT calculator is presently $10.75 for a single person in Tennessee. By raising the minimum wage, we can move Americans into productive employment and off of public assistance which is a definite win – win. It is better than any tax cut because it puts money in the hands of those most in need, boosts the economy and reduces the national debt. Businesses and corporations have just received a 40% tax cut which has improved their profit margins and 7 states are already moving toward a 15 minimum wage and their economies have not collapsed or been adversely affected. If you truly want to help your neighbor a hand up is always better than a hand out. The present Senate will not move on this bill unless we speak up. You can contact Marsha Blackburn at <https://www.blackburn.senate.gov/contact_marsha> and Lamar Alexander at <https://www.alexander.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email>. Let them know what you think. #WeAreTN

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