Minimum Wage Handout, last revised 9-9-04


- 9.9 million workers (9% of workforce) would receive an increase in their hourly wage if it is raised to $7.00 an hour.

- Another 7 million people (6% of workforce) earning up to a dollar above the minimum would likely also get an increase.

- Full time workers would benefit. Close to half (44%) of workers who would benefit from raise in minimum wage increase work full time and another third (33%) work between 20 and 34 hours a week.

- Over six hundred thousand single mothers (623,000) with children under 18 would benefit from minimum wage increase to $7.00.

- More than 1 million married men and women with children would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage to $7.00.

- Full time workers would benefit. Close to half (44%) of workers who would benefit from raise in minimum wage increase work full time and another third (33%) work between 20 and 34 hours a week.

- Adults would benefit. 72% of those workers who would get a raise if minimum was raised to $7.00 are adults age 20 or older.

- Women are the largest group of people who would benefit from a raise in the minimum wage to $7.00. Almost 60% of the people who would get a raise would be women.

- The inflation-adjusted value of the minimum wage is 26% lower than it was in 1979.

- Will layoffs result? Has been predicted every time minimum wage has been raised since 1930s. Layoffs result often when there is no increase. Opponents say they will, supporters say increased productivity shows they won’t.

- Today, the minimum wage is 33% of the average hourly wage of the American worker, the lowest level since 1949.

- WHY NOT INDEX MINIMUM WAGE FOR INFLATION?