

October 3, 2015

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

As an employee and citizen of South Carolina, I have worked many jobs making minimum wage since I was 19. I am writing you concerning an issue that is affecting not only South Carolina, but is affecting the world.

My issue is that the minimum wage is not increasing. I feel as if we should come together and figure out some ways to increase minimum wage and decrease poverty. Minimum wage was created to keep America's employers out of poverty, but yet people are still in poverty. I don't believe we should raise minimum wage tremendously, but it should be raised enough for families to have more to budget with. If you all would vote to increase minimum wage, that would put more money in the pockets of the people in poverty, who are going to spend it at the local businesses. That way no one would lose any money. The larger companies such as Bojangles' can afford to raise minimum wage because they make so much money compared to smaller town businesses. I once worked for Bojangles' and I started off making \$7.25, but by the time I had been there over a year I only had gotten a twenty cent raise. Honestly, these employers expect you to do a lot and they can't even pay you enough to get by in life. Most jobs that the people in poverty can find aren't in town; you have to at least drive at least thirty minutes. All of your money is going into gas pretty much. I'm very aware that if minimum wage goes up a lot, that the cost of living is expected to go up as well, but how are we supposed to turn people away from poverty? After a while all of the benefits such as Medicaid, food stamps, TANF, Family Independence etc. will be thrown away, then what will the people have to depend on? Yes, I do believe people should work and be able to take care of their household, but at the same time it is hard to find a job and it is hard to work a job that doesn't want to pay you enough so that you can maintain all of your bills. If you raise the minimum wage people are more than likely to stay at their job. It would cut back on having to keep hiring people and paying for background checks. More money is all the people want. What can we do as Americans to help?

Please keep doing great work. I look forward to hearing from you soon regarding this issue. Thank you for caring about the people.

Sincerely,

Sheniqua R. Dowell

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