

Senate Labor & Industry Hearing on Minimum Wage
Senator Christine Tartaglione
Opening Statement
May 5, 2015

I'd like to thank Senator Baker for calling this Hearing on this important issue. I was honored to have offered the legislation that raised the minimum wage in 2006. It was as controversial an issue then as it is today, but in the end, we all realized raising the minimum wage was the right thing to do.

All the warnings of doom and gloom never materialized; individuals saw the benefit, the economy saw the benefit, communities saw the benefit, and even businesses saw the benefit from the increase of the minimum wage.

Estimates show that raising the minimum wage could benefit more than a million workers in Pennsylvania, would add approximately \$1.8 million to the economy and generate 6,000 jobs.

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This is all good news for the commonwealth. I look forward to hearing the variety of perspectives that have been lined up for us today.

I'd like to thank all the panel members in advance for taking time away from your businesses and your jobs to share your experiences with us as we consider this very important issue.