Colorado Families for a Fair Wage:
“$12 by 2020”

Minimum wage is in line with our core values as people of faith
As people of faith we believe that all people should have the resources to live a
dignified life and provide for themselves and their families. Having to choose
between paying rent, buying food or taking care of your or your family’s basic
health care or education needs does not build human dignity in our state.

Minimum wage has not kept pace with Colorado’s cost of living
The minimum wage was created to help keep working families in our state out of poverty, but the cost of
living in Colorado has risen dramatically. The current wage of $8.31 hasn’t nearly kept up.

Minimum wage workers earn less than $300/week after taxes – that isn’t enough for one person to live on,
let alone a family. It’s so little that families are often forced to rely on government assistance to put food
on the table and a roof over their heads.

Increasing wages is both fair AND smart

● Fair: People working full time shouldn’t have to live in poverty
● Smart: When people have money to spend, it boosts the local economy and creates jobs

Full-time jobs should pay enough to live on

● Many earn so little, their employers give them no choice but to rely on food stamps & other public assistance
● Even many skilled jobs like nursing assistants, preschool teachers and paramedics pay less than $12

The problem facing families and our economy is the same thing – low wages

● The cost of rent, groceries and other basics have gone up for years but wages haven't kept up
● That hurts both workers and the economy because growing the economy relies on workers having money in their pockets to spend in our community
● Taxpayers are subsidizing employers who pay low wages through food stamps and other public assistance – but employers are the ones that should pay workers enough to live on

Helping Colorado families succeed
This isn’t about teenagers with part-time jobs. The average age of a minimum wage worker is 35 and over
84% of Colorado’s low-wage workers who would benefit are over the age of 20.

Raising the minimum wage to a fair wage will reward the hard work of half-a-million Coloradans so they
can afford the basics, pay their bills on time and raise their kids.

www.coloradofamiliesforafairwage.org
Campaign inquiries: Patty Kupfer: 202-415-8746 and patty@coloradofamiliesforafairwage.org
Minimum Wage in Colorado

Low-wage workers are falling further behind – full-time minimum wage workers can’t earn enough to support their families because the wage has not nearly kept pace with the cost of living.

Current Minimum Wage is Not Enough to Survive On

Minimum wage workers live in poverty. Minimum wage was created to keep working families out of poverty but it hasn’t kept up with the rising cost of living – and buying power has dropped massively over 50 years.

Minimum wage is not enough to live on. A full-time minimum wage worker earns $8.31 an hour and takes home less than $300/week – well below federal poverty level for a family of three¹ – not enough to afford food, rent and other basic needs.

Raise the Minimum Wage to $12 by 2020!

• A minimum wage of $12/hour is a nearly 50% increase from $8.31 today, improving the lives of 500,000 plus Coloradans
• That’s a raise of over $7,800 a year for a full-time minimum wage worker. This will put over $1 billion a year in worker’s pockets across the state!

Who Makes a Minimum Wage?

Minimum wage workers are adults. The average age of a minimum wage earner is 35 – and more than 84% of minimum wage earners are over the age of 20.

Many Coloradans work low-wage jobs, especially women. More than 1 out of 4 Colorado workers earn less than $12/hour. That’s over half-a-million Coloradans.² Most minimum wage workers are women.

Strengthening the Economy By Improving Pay

Raising the minimum wage helps the economy. Extensive research shows raising the minimum wage helps the economy by increasing consumer spending. These studies also show raising the wage does not result in job loss in sectors most likely to hire minimum wage workers.

• Research shows no negative employment effect of minimum wage increases, according to empirical economic comparisons of contiguous counties—the gold standard in methodology.
• Research shows that those who earn just over the minimum wage also benefit from modest wage increases, suggesting that the population impacted is not limited to those who earn the minimum wage.³
• Low and middle-income workers are more likely to spend pay increases than higher paid workers. This increases consumer demand and leads to further job growth.

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