



NEWS RELEASE

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August 25, 2017

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Illinois Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Todd Maisch's statement on Governor Rauner's veto of SB 81:

"Thanks to the governor's veto of SB 81 Illinois employers can breathe a little easier today. We applaud the governor for vetoing legislation that would have increased the state's minimum wage to \$15 per hour. This keeps Illinois in competition with our neighbors by helping to maintain our jobs and to recruit prospective employers.

The Illinois Chamber of Commerce is opposed to the legislation because the proposed increase in minimum wage would kill jobs, even for those looking to climb the economic ladder. By vetoing the legislation, the governor is saving thousands of jobs.

A study completed by the University of Washington this summer confirmed that jobs and work hours fell in Seattle after it raised its minimum wage to \$13 just last year. If anything, this should be a sign that \$15 minimum wage laws do more harm than good. Even St. Louis is expected to roll back its minimum wage from \$10 per hour to \$7.70 per hour at the end of this month.

Elected officials in other states are acknowledging that higher minimum wages are destructive to job growth. Too many lawmakers continue to ignore the truth that raising the minimum wage, like in SB 81, kills jobs."

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