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Illinois Chamber of Commerce statement on rushed passage of \$15 per hour minimum wage

"This afternoon, despite opposition from employers across the state, the legislature passed the most anti-jobs bill in recent memory, a statewide \$15 per hour minimum wage," said Illinois Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Todd Maisch. "Illinois appears ready to join a small number of liberal states that have bought into the myth that wages are 'free money' from employers that can be created by a simple vote of the legislature and the signature of a pen.

"Despite repeated attempts by the Chamber and other business advocates to mitigate the damage of this legislation, the majorities in the legislature passed a bill largely written by their organized labor allies with little concern for small businesses and the Illinois economy. The Chamber and others offered several compromises to ease the burden of a statewide \$15 minimum wage, including those already adopted by other 'progressive' states. All were rebuffed. We can only hope that the economic realities of this legislation will dawn on the legislature as the brute political momentum of the bill subsides.

"Given the governor's stated support, the bill indeed may be lost, but the battle is not over. Enhanced tax relief for small businesses and other pro-business reforms may still mitigate the damage done by this legislation. The Chamber calls on the legislature and the governor to recognize the true cost of this legislation and commit themselves to pass subsequent legislation to begin to undo its harm."

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