



ADVOCACY UPDATE

The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce is the voice for business in Springfield and Sangamon County and has an obligation to its members to represent their interests to all levels of government and to the public. The Chamber supports laws and ordinances that encourage entrepreneurship, development, job creation and investment. The Chamber opposes public policy that creates unnecessary regulation and/or burden on the business community that will hamper the creation of new jobs and wealth.

Illinois Minimum Wage Increase May Happen Next Week ***Employers urged to contact representatives***

In the recent election, Governor JB Pritzker and many Democratic lawmakers campaigned in favor of an increase in the state's minimum wage to \$15 per hour. This would represent an 82 percent increase from the current wage and negatively impact employers in many ways, including a variety of other costs that will be driven up, like workers compensation insurance and various payroll taxes.

The Governor and lawmakers are seeking to take quick action, possibly as soon as next week. With Democratic supermajorities in the House and Senate, and a supportive Governor, it is extremely likely that legislation will pass this year.

The business community, numerous business associations, the Illinois Manufacturing Association, and others are fighting against this minimum wage hike and attempting to mitigate it in several ways. Please reach out to lawmakers as soon as possible to urge them to oppose the minimum wage hike or at least consider limiting its damage with these changes:

- If a minimum wage hike is going to happen it should reflect geographic cost differences rather than a one-size-fits all approach. Should businesses in Springfield, Decatur, or Jacksonville be forced to pay the same wages as Chicago? New York and Oregon have adopted regional wage rates.
- Any wage increase should have a long phase-in timeline. Even a four year phase-in would mean average increases of more than \$1.50 per year, which will be difficult for many businesses to manage. Call and/or write lawmakers and ask for a long phase-in period.
- Include a tax credit for employers to help mitigate the cost to employers. The current proposal includes a limited credit for small employers with less than 50 employees, but this should be expanded to include more companies.

We cannot stress enough the importance of contacting legislators, particularly those that reside outside of Chicago. It is important that we reach out to our downstate legislators. You can access our local House and Senate representatives' contact information on the Chamber's website [here](#). Or these links will take you to the [House of Representatives](#) and [Senate](#) statewide.

Thanks to the many businesses and business associations around the State, especially the Illinois Manufacturers' Association, for significant leadership on this issue, as well as this call to action.