

# Fast Facts

Prepared by Coalition of Religious Communities, A Multi-Faith Response to Poverty

Legislative Session 2007

## SB34: Minimum Wage Amendments Senator Ed Mayne

### Summary:

- Raises the state minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.00 an hour.

### Background of the Issue:

- Currently the minimum wage in Utah is tied to the federal minimum wage, which has been at \$5.15 an hour since 1997.
- Seventeen other states have already raised their state minimum wage, ranging from \$5.70/hr. in Wisconsin to \$7.63/hr in Washington. In addition, 130 cities and towns across the country have a minimum wage higher than the federal minimum wage.
- Inflation and annual cost of living increases makes the 1997 minimum wage worth less each year in current dollars.

### For more information:

- Contact Linda at [linda@crossroads-u-c.org](mailto:linda@crossroads-u-c.org) or call CORC at 364-7765 or 1-888-747-8482.
- Go online to [www.iwj.org](http://www.iwj.org) or [www.acorn.org](http://www.acorn.org) for information and other resources related to minimum wage.

### Key Points:

- The minimum wage has been stagnant since 1997.
- An increase of \$1.85/hr in minimum wage would add \$3,848 to a full-time minimum wage worker's salary. This would be enough to provide either 5 months of rent for a two bedroom apartment in Salt Lake City or more than a year's worth of groceries for a family of three.
- Raising the minimum wage is FAMILY FRIENDLY. Workers who make higher wages can make ends meet by working only one job instead of two or three. This gives wages earners more time to be with their families.
- Women are disproportionately affected by a low minimum wage as women compose 66% of low wage earners. 28.8% of families headed by women live in poverty.
- Studies have shown that raising the minimum wage does NOT increase unemployment or put small businesses out of business.
- Increasing the minimum wage promotes independence and enforces the value of work.
- 19,000 workers, or 2.8% of the workforce in Utah make the minimum wage or less. 11% of the workforce makes \$7.15 an hour or less.

### CORC's Position:

CORC strongly supports raising the hourly minimum wage in Utah to \$7.00.