

Date: 2-25-21

## **House Business and Labor**

### **Bill: HB 284 Minimum Wage Amendments**

Sponsor: Rep. Collard

Floor Sponsor:

#### **UASD Position: Tracking**

This Bill: amends provisions related to minimum wages.

Discussion: Rep. Collard introduced the bill. It incrementally increases Utah's minimum wage over the next five years, starting at \$12 this year and reaching \$15 in 2026. It also increases the minimum wage for tipped workers. Jean Hill presented with Rep. Collard on how raising the minimum wage will improve Utah citizens' quality of life. Rep. Snider asked if the bill does the same thing as the Raise the Wage Act. Rep. Collard said this bill starts a little higher. Rep. Snider said that the Raise the Wage Act analysis shows that 1.5 million people will lose their jobs. Rep. Collard said she doesn't believe that that many people will lose their jobs. The fiscal note on her bill doesn't show the impact over time. Rep. Thurston asked how many Utahns are being paid minimum wage. Rep. Collard said she believes it's around 19,000 people. Rep. Thurston asked how many people are making between minimum wage and \$12 hourly. Rep. Collard said she doesn't know. The St. George Area Chamber of Commerce opposes the bill. Rep. Wheatley asked what the average wage is in the St. George Area Chamber of Commerce. Their representative said some are paying \$10-12 hourly. Rep. Wheatley asked if there are any employers paying the minimum wage. The representative said he's sure there are some. Americans for Prosperity Utah, the National Federation of Independent Business, and the Utah Retail Merchants Association oppose the bill. Rep. Brammer moved to table the bill. Rep. King spoke about the benefits of the Seattle minimum wage increase. Rep. Strong said his children have had no difficulty finding high-paying jobs. Rep. Collard reiterated that raising the minimum wage would benefit many Utahns. Rep. Brammer said that the Gini coefficient in Utah is the lowest in the nation, while Seattle's Gini coefficient is the highest in the nation.

Yeas: 10

Nays: 3

N/V: 3

**Outcome: HB 284 was tabled.**