

## OPPOSE A \$13 MINIMUM WAGE IN COOK COUNTY

- **Businesses In Cook County are facing an onslaught of tax increases and regulations**
  - In the past 18 months, Cook County businesses have been hit with the highest sales tax in the country, one of the nation's highest hotel taxes, a paid sick leave mandate, and a potential penny per ounce tax on soda and sugar-sweetened beverages.
  - Now is the worst time to drastically increase labor costs on Cook County employers.
  
- **A \$13 dollar an hour minimum wage would hurt Cook County's competitiveness.**
  - Increasing Cook County's minimum wage to a level 58% higher than its collar county neighbors and 79% higher than the state of Indiana will clearly send businesses and jobs to those communities.
  
- **Cook County enacting its own minimum wage separate from the state is unsound public policy.**
  - Creates a powerful incentive for employers to leave Cook County because of a higher minimum wage and more burdensome regulations.
  - Draws collar county residents to Cook County looking for higher wage jobs.
  - Creates the worst of both worlds for workers: more competition for fewer jobs.
  
- **The minimum wage is a floor, not a ceiling.**
  - The National Restaurant Association notes that "nine out of ten salaried restaurant workers, including owners and managers, started as hourly workers."
  - Employees are not locked into minimum wage jobs, they have the ability to garner the necessary skills to advance and earn higher wages.
  - A minimum wage is intended to be a *starting wage*.
  
- **If Cook County has a higher minimum wage than the state, there will be fewer jobs and higher prices on consumers within the County.**
  - Increases in the cost of labor means that businesses will be forced to raise prices on consumers.
  - Consumers will dine, shop, and spend their money in areas of the state with lower prices, which could be a few blocks away.
  - Decreases in sales mean fewer jobs.