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NHFPI Voices Support for Increase to State Minimum Wage NH Minimum Wage Workers Have Lost 23% to Inflation

CONCORD – The New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute (NHFPI) today joined New Hampshire legislators, small business owners, and a broad coalition of statewide organizations in voicing support for an increase to New Hampshire’s minimum wage, currently \$7.25 an hour and the lowest in New England. NHFPI Executive Director Jeff McLynch provided testimony in support of HB 1403 during a public hearing held before the House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services Committee.

“New Hampshire’s minimum wage has not increased in five years, while the cost of living has continued to climb,” said NHFPI Executive Director Jeff McLynch. “In fact, today’s minimum wage worker has lost 23% in purchasing power as compared to 35 years ago. Stretched over a week, a month, a year, that’s less gas in the car, food on the table, or heat in the apartment – for the same amount of work.”

HB 1403 would raise New Hampshire’s minimum wage in two stages and provide for annual cost of living increases in the future. It would increase the minimum to \$8.25 per hour on January 1, 2015 and to \$9.00 per hour on January 1, 2016. Beginning January 1, 2017, it would automatically increase New Hampshire’s minimum wage to account for inflation (based on the Consumer Price Index).

“Raising New Hampshire’s minimum wage would, on average, put \$870 per year in the pockets of hard working but low earning Granite Staters,” said McLynch. “Those higher wages will almost immediately be used to buy food at local supermarkets, clothes at local shops, and gas at local convenience stores, improving sales at businesses across the state.”

An analysis conducted by the Economic Policy Institute indicates that HB 1403 would either directly or indirectly increase the wages of 76,000 Granite Staters. Of those who would be affected, 72 percent are adults age 20 and older; 32 percent work full-time; 59 percent are women; and 14 percent are parents.

There is widespread support for an increase to New Hampshire’s minimum wage. The WMUR Granite State Poll conducted by the UNH Survey Center and released on February 6 found that 76% of NH residents support increasing the minimum wage to \$9.00. Additionally, Public Policy Polling results released January 15 show New Hampshire voters

support increasing the minimum wage to \$10 an hour by a margin of 60% support to 29% opposed.

Link to [full testimony of NHFPI Executive Director Jeff McLynch](#)

The New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute (NHFPI) is an independent, non-partisan organization dedicated to exploring, developing, and promoting public policies that foster economic opportunity and prosperity for all New Hampshire residents, with an emphasis on low- and moderate-income families and individuals. Learn more at www.nhfpi.org.