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February 11, 2016

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New Minimum Wage Mandate Would Hurt Oregon Seniors and People with Disabilities

Salem, Ore. - Today, the Oregon Senate will consider a costly new minimum wage mandate that will disproportionately harm senior citizens in Oregon.

According to the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS), the minimum wage hike will cost the Aging and People with Disabilities (ADP) program over \$36 million during the 2017-2019 biennium. The program provides in-home care for seniors and those with disabilities, and increased expenses due to the minimum wage hike would cost the equivalent of in-home care service for 1,370 seniors, or approximately 10% of those currently receiving Medicaid long-term care in-home services.

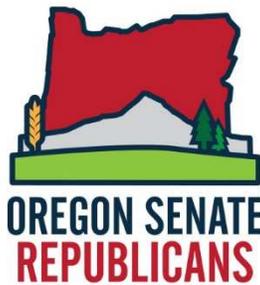
"Oregon seniors living on fixed incomes rely on critical services provided by the state," said Senator Tim Knopp (R-Bend). "The unintended consequences of this minimum wage hike reach as far as some of our most vulnerable citizens. We cannot risk compromising programs like live-in home care, foster care and employment services for individuals with disabilities. The legislature needs to choose: do we risk a costly hike in the minimum wage or protect the elderly and those with disabilities?"

The ADP program is a cost-effective way for seniors and individuals with disabilities to continue to live in the comfort of their own home. Without this program, many will be placed in costly care facilities and lose the autonomy and independence live-in home care provides.

The minimum wage hike will also threaten several programs provided by DHS, including adult foster care, foster care for children with disabilities, employment services for individuals with disabilities, and supported living services for adults. DHS estimates the steep increase in the minimum wage will cost Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities programs over \$20 million in the 2017-2019 biennium.

[Click here](#) for the full impact of the minimum wage hike on senior and disability programs.

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