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Ce sujet comporte les 3 documents suivants :

- un article extrait du site *guardianlv.com*,
- un article extrait du site ,
- un article extrait du site *forbes.com*.

Document 1

Minimum Wage Increase Has Nearly No Negative Impact, Study Says

guardianlv.com/2014/03

Editorial by Tracy Rose

The minimum wage debate continues as proposals of an increase from \$7.25 to \$10.10 per hour are being considered. There is a lot of speculation as far as what the outcome would be if the increase were made across the board. According to one study, however, there is a minimal negative impact from bumping up the hourly wage of underpaid employees.

Economists at the University of California, Berkley studied a list of cities that have already raised their minimum wage over the last 10 years. What they found was that it did not have a big negative impact on those cities, as some have speculated. Using San Francisco as an example, a city that had a 26 percent minimum wage increase, followed by gradual increases until it reached \$10.74 an hour, they found almost no negative effects.

Businesses, such as restaurants, did enforce modest price increases, but many of them actually absorbed the added cost of the higher wages. Researchers also found that minimum wage employees showed more productivity once the raise went into effect, thus reducing a possible negative outcome.

As one might expect, the cost of eating out did go up with the minimum wage increase, according to the study. However, even with an increase of 25 percent in minimum wages, the restaurants only increased their menu prices by two to three percent. Those numbers rose to six to seven percent when the minimum wage was raised by a higher percentage.

The average pay increase for the cities in the study was 40 percent. Michael Reich, an economics professor with the Research on Labor and Employment states that raising the minimum wage up to \$13 per hour does not have a negative impact on employment. Though he said that effect of the requested \$15 per hour for fast food workers had not yet been studied. (...)

Furthermore, a paper by the Economic Policy Institute covering national research details the “multiple positive effects” that would occur from a minimum wage increase. Namely, the potential for economic growth. Aside from new jobs, the research shows that higher wages could spin the economy and give American working families a much-needed boost. It could also help reduce the current unemployment rate of 7.7 percent, as well as increase spending, which would result in a better economy overall.

According to the Bloomberg National Poll that was released Tuesday, 69 percent of Americans favor the minimum wage increase to \$10.10 per hours, as long as jobs are not lost because of it. Meanwhile, 28 percent of Americans oppose the minimum wage hike.

The proposed increase would give 16.5 million people more annual earnings and a chance to make a living while working a minimum wage job. The tradeoff, however, is said to be the loss of approximately 500,000 jobs.

While studies and research highlight the possible benefits, or at least the low risk of a negative impact, as a result of a minimum wage increase to \$10.10 by July 1, 2015, the proposal still shows mixed reviews among Americans.

Document 2

Evidence Shows Increasing the Minimum Wage Is No Threat to Employment

americanprogressaction.org

David Madland and Keith Miller | February 2014.

President Barack Obama speaks about raising the minimum wage for federal contract workers,

As the debate heats up in Congress over increasing the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 per hour to \$10.10 per hour, critics of the minimum wage are trotting out the same tired arguments that doing so will harm the national economy and increase unemployment. A review of the most recent

evidence makes clear, however, that raising the minimum wage does not result in inevitable job losses—even during periods of high unemployment—and may in fact be *good* for the economy.

The easiest way to illustrate this point is simply to look at how unemployment rates have responded to past minimum-wage increases. To do so, we analyzed more than two decades' worth of minimum-wage increases in U.S. states; we found no clear evidence that the minimum-wage increases affect aggregate job creation when unemployment rates are high.

Our analysis included every state that saw its effective minimum wage increase between 1987 and 2012 when the state's unemployment rate was at or above 7 percent. In 48 of the 92 times this occurred, the unemployment rate actually decreased over the next 12 months, and in 4 other cases, the unemployment rate remained unchanged.* In contrast, there were only 40 instances when the unemployment rate increased. That means when a minimum-wage increase occurred during a period of high unemployment, unemployment rates actually declined 52 percent of the time.

The fact that the nation's current unemployment rate of 6.6 percent is actually well below the threshold used in our analysis suggests that there is even less reason to be concerned about negative employment effects.

Document 3

Why Raising The Minimum Wage Kills Jobs

forbes.com

William Dunkelberg, 12/2012

The minimum wage is a major anti-jobs policy. Ten states have announced an increase in their minimum wage effective January 1, mostly because their legislation requires an adjustment to the Consumer Price Index inflation measure. Some political jurisdictions take it further, San Francisco has a minimum over \$10 per hour and the state of Washington is above \$9 on average. Supporters hail this as a victory for “fairness” and a benefit for poor people. This, it is alleged, will provide more income to support spending and stimulate the economy. (...)

As a poverty program, raising the minimum wage is like killing flies with a shotgun, not very well targeted. About 60% of the officially poor don't work, so the only thing raising the minimum wage does for them is to make it harder for them to get a job if they ever decide they want one. Workers must bring at least as much value to the firm as they are paid or the firm will fail and all jobs will be lost (...).

It is estimated that less than 15% of the total increase in wages resulting from an increase in the minimum will go to people below the poverty line and less than a third of those receiving the minimum wage are families below the poverty line. Most minimum wage workers are from above median income families. So, most of the people benefiting from the minimum wage are not the intended targets of the “anti-poverty” aspect of raising the minimum wage.

As a jobs program, raising the minimum wage is a real loser. Congress raised the minimum wage 10.6% in July, 2009. In the ensuing 6 months, nearly 600,000 teen jobs disappeared, even with nearly 4% growth in the economy, this compared to a loss of 250,000 jobs in the first half of the year as GDP growth declined by 4% Why? When you raise the price of anything, people take less of it, including labor. (...)

Another argument in favor of the minimum wage is that it is a stimulus, introducing new income and spending into the market. (...) But, consider a community based pizza parlor selling 100 pies a day for 360 days at \$10 each. Total revenue is \$360,000. It employs 10 minimum wage workers earning \$7 per hour, working 2000 hours a year, making labor costs \$140,000. Assume rent, utilities, equipment, depreciation, insurance, supplies, licenses, and food costs come to \$170,000 per year, leaving a profit of \$50,000 for the owner and his/her family. Raising the minimum wage \$1 would raise labor costs by \$20,000 (paying more for the same amount of labor) and reduce profit to \$30,000. The owner must either move into a smaller house or raise prices, which reduces the demand for pizza, resulting in the loss of a worker. (...)

Supporters of raising the minimum cite poorly done studies by agenda driven “research” groups that allege to show that raising the minimum doesn’t harm employment. This is not supported by good academic research. The Law of Demand always works: the higher the price of anything, the less that will be taken, and this includes labor. (...)

Raising the cost of labor raises the incentive for employers to find ways to use less labor. (...) This is but one of the poorly designed policies that are created by politicians who have little or no understanding of how business works. They promise higher legislated wages or other benefits to constituents who don’t understand the true economic impact in order to gain votes.

Fin de l’énoncé