

To whom it may concern,

I am emailing with regards to considerations being made on the minimum wage here in Ireland.

I am personally appreciative of the steady increase to the national minimum wage that we have seen but feel that this approach needs to continue in order to ensure a viable living wage for all working persons.

Given the present housing crisis and apparent social disparity that has left many homeless or unable to afford more than housing conditions that can be generously described as less than ideal for raising a family, the continued support for a higher minimum presents the opportunity to create a more even playing ground for all while simultaneously providing incentive to work for young people looking to make something of themselves. I believe the proposed goal for the minimum wage is 10.50 but with housing costs on the rise I do not feel this is adequately linked to the inflation in cost of living.

While I am a proponent for strong socio-economic supports in the form of social housing and public employment for tackling these issues, at the very least a strong minimum wage presents an opportunity to pursue social advancement and reasonable living conditions. Assuming that the minimum wage is exactly that, the minimum, and that we are a society that promotes the opportunity to advance one's career and prospects, not just financially but also from a point of the desire for personal advancement, it seems to me that a strong minimum wage should not be an contentious issue. If the goal is ultimately to move beyond such a wage then the individual is already planned for a wage bracket above what some employers might try to argue is a 'costly' entry point.

In light of the government's recent approach with tax cuts on both income and capital gains, strong minimum wage support seems the natural response in order to see a unified improvement in the standard of living of citizens provided of course that employment opportunities continue to present themselves. I still feel public spending should play a larger role in providing for low income workers and the disadvantaged but an increased minimum wage is certainly a step in the right direction.

Thank you for giving your time to this and of course the best of wishes.

Sincerely,

