

CARSEY INSTITUTE

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

BUILDING KNOWLEDGE TO SUPPORT RURAL COMMUNITIES IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

Media and Policy Advisory
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New Report Shows Rural Impact of Minimum Wage Hike *Nearly Two Million Rural Workers Anticipating a Raise*

WHAT: Teleconference Briefing for Reporters and Policy Organizations on Minimum Wage Increase and Rural America

WHEN: Friday, January 19, 10:30-11 a.m. EST

WHO: Mil Duncan, PhD, director, Carsey Institute, University of New Hampshire
William O'Hare, PhD, senior fellow, Carsey Institute

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(Durham, NH) - While members of the U. S. Senate consider the first increase in the minimum wage in a decade, the Carsey Institute will release findings of a study showing that it would benefit rural, low-wage workers every bit as much, if not more, than workers in big cities.

The full Senate is expected to take up the bill in the coming days. On January 11, the House voted overwhelmingly to boost the minimum wage from \$5.15 an hour to \$7.25.

As the House debate showed, U.S. policy-makers tend to think of the minimum wage as applying mainly to unskilled young people who work in the fast-food industry in impoverished urban neighborhoods. But Carsey's findings tell a different story.

"Members of Congress need to understand the important impact an increase in the minimum wage will have on all of their constituents, including those in rural areas" says Mil Duncan, director of the Carsey Institute. "The minimum wage is not just a big city issue. A higher percentage of rural workers will benefit from the proposed \$7.25 minimum wage."

"There are nearly two million low-wage workers in rural America who would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage and more than half of them have children under age 18 in the household," William O'Hare, senior fellow at the Carsey Institute said.

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The Carsey Institute at the University of New Hampshire conducts research and analysis on the challenges facing rural families and communities in New Hampshire, New England, and the nation. The Carsey Institute sponsors independent, interdisciplinary research that documents trends and conditions affecting families and communities, providing valuable information and analysis to policymakers, practitioners, the media, and the general public. Through this work, the Carsey Institute contributes to public dialogue on policies that encourage social mobility and sustain healthy, equitable communities. The Carsey Institute was established in May 2002 with a generous gift from UNH alumna and noted television producer Marcy Carsey.