

IF THE U.S. CHAMBER HAD THEIR WAY, HOOSIERS WOULD SUFFER

When CEOs in Washington decide the agenda of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, they seem to forget all about real workers and business owners throughout America. For decades, they have fought legislation that would have a real impact on working families right here in Indiana. With nearly [350,000](#) Hoosiers out of work, now is the time to do everything we can to stand up to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce – and stand up for working families.

The U.S. Chamber opposed wage hikes that not only benefited hundreds of thousands of Hoosiers but also pumped more than \$144 million into the state economy. They opposed a children's health care plan that will not only cover 66,200 more children in Indiana, but also will create nearly 4,600 jobs in the state. The U.S. Chamber doesn't speak for working families in Indiana.

IMPACT OF MINIMUM WAGE HIKES ON INDIANA:

The U.S. Chamber “Has Consistently Opposed Increasing the Federal Minimum Wage.” In July 2007, Marc Freedman, the labor law policy director at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, wrote, “The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has consistently opposed increasing the federal minimum wage.” He added, “Increasing the minimum wage does not even help those it is intended to benefit.” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 7/17/07]

U.S. Chamber Official on Wage Hike: “We Have Taken The Hell No Attitude.” “We have taken the ‘hell, no’ attitude,” said the U.S. Chamber’s Randel Johnson discussing a proposed minimum wage increase in 1999. “I don't care what the 20-second sound bites say. This move hurts lower-income, lower-skilled workers.” [Akron Beacon Journal, 6/21/99]

U.S. Chamber Official: “We Don’t Think Government Ought to Be in the Business of Setting Wages.” In 2002, U.S. Chamber spokesman Randy Johnson said, “We don't think the government ought to be in the business of setting wages.” [Washington Times, 5/6/02]

U.S. Chamber: “Wage Mandates Ignore the Principles of Free Market Economies.” In an amicus brief filed with the Supreme Court of Louisiana, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce wrote, “Wage mandates ignore the principles of free market economies; they prevent businesses from making profits, growing and hiring more workers; and they base wages on what the worker wants instead of on the value of work performed.” [The Pantagraph, 11/21/04]

2007 Minimum Wage Hike Could Bring \$144.8 MILLION Into Indiana’s Economy. The average American works 1,916 hours every year. In 2007, 36,000 Hoosiers earned at or below the federal minimum wage. With an increase from \$5.15 an hour to \$7.25 an hour by July 2009, the 2007 wage increase passed by Congress could pump \$144.8 million into Indiana’s economy. [Bureau of Labor Statistics, “Work Schedules in the National Compensation Survey,” [7/28/08](#); Bureau of Labor Statistics, “Characteristics of Minimum Wage Workers: 2007,” [5/7/08](#); EPI, “What a new federal minimum wage means for the states,” [5/25/07](#)]

Study Found That 354,000 Hoosiers Would Benefit From the 2007 Minimum Wage Hike. The Economic Policy Institute found that approximately 354,000

people in Indiana alone would benefit from a federal minimum wage increase to \$7.25 an hour. This include those workers that were earning less than \$7.25 as well as workers that would benefit indirectly as other wages increase proportionately. EPI explained, "While a raise is not legally mandated for these workers, empirical evidence shows that many employers raise the wages of workers earning above the new minimum wage in order to preserve internal wage structures, an occurrence known as the 'spillover effect.'" [EPI, "Issue Guide on Minimum Wage, [8/1/08](#)]

IMPACT OF FAIR PAY LAWS ON INDIANA:

U.S. Chamber Opposed Equal Pay Bill, Saying it Would "Undermine America's Civil Rights Laws." In a January 2009 letter to Congress, R. Bruce Josten of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce wrote that the U.S. Chamber opposed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, a bill to protect workers who receive unfair pay for equal work, "on both substantive and procedural grounds." Discussing another fair pay bill this year, the Chamber's Randel Johnson said, "further increasing the opportunity for frivolous litigation would only further serve to undermine America's civil rights laws." [Chamber Letter, [1/14/09](#); Chamber Press Release, [1/9/09](#)]

U.S. Chamber Opposed 1998 Equal Pay Law for Women. In 1998, the U.S. Chamber opposed President Clinton's call for legislation to strengthen laws reducing disparities in men and women's earning power. Randel Johnson, vice president of labor policy at the chamber, said that wage disparities are due mainly to the interruption of many women's job careers to raise families. "Work experience does tend to translate to greater wages," Johnson said. [AP, 6/10/98]

Women in Indiana Earn Only 72% Of What Their Male Counterparts Make, Below the National Average. According to a study released by the National Women's Law Center, "In 2007, on average, women in Indiana working full-time, year-round earned only 72% of what men working full-time, year-round earned -- six percentage points below the nationwide average of 78%. The wage gap is even more substantial when race and gender are considered together. White, non-Hispanic women working full-time, year-round in Indiana earned only 70% of the wages of White, non-Hispanic men. However, Black women working full-time, year-round in Indiana earned only 65%, and Hispanic women only 50%, of the wages of White, non-Hispanic men." [National Women's Law Center, [April 2009](#)]

IMPACT OF OUTSOURCING ON INDIANA:

U.S. Chamber President Defended Outsourcing of U.S. Jobs, Arguing That Americans Are "Short of Skills." Defending outsourcing in 2004, U.S. Chamber of Commerce President Tom Donohue said, "The big fundamental issue that we need to understand is we are short of skills in this country. Five years from now we'll have 10 million skilled jobs and we haven't got the people to fill." [CNNFN, [5/3/04](#)]

U.S. Chamber President: "There Are Legitimate Values in Outsourcing." In 2004, U.S. Chamber of Commerce President Tom Donohue said, "there are legitimate values in outsourcing -- not only jobs, but work -- to gain technical experience and benefit we don't have here, to lower the price of

products, which means more and more of them are brought into the United States, used, for example, I.T., much broader use than it was 10 years ago, create more and more jobs. But the bottom line is that we outsource very few jobs in relation to the size of our economy. We employ -- American companies employ 140 million Americans. They provide health care for 160 million Americans. They provide training in terms of 40 billion a year. The outsourcing deal over three or four or five years and the two or three sets of numbers are only going to be, you know, maybe two, maybe three million jobs, maybe four.” [CNNFN, [2/10/04](#)]

U.S. Chamber President Suggested More Jobs Were Brought In to the U.S. Than Outsourced to Other Countries. In 2004, U.S. Chamber of Commerce President Tom Donohue said, “nobody knows where Lou got 2.2 [million] outsourced jobs. Maybe we've got 300,000 in the last couple of years. The most interesting thing is that if you take an annual basis, we insource in the very same categories of work \$16 billion more than we outsourced, which is 2 million jobs.” [CNNFN, 9/2/04]

In 2007 Alone, Indiana Lost 165,600 jobs to Outsourcing. According to a study from the Economic Policy Institute, Indiana lost 165,600 jobs as a result of the U.S. non-oil trade deficit in 2007 alone. Nationwide, 5.6 million jobs were lost. 70% of these jobs were in the manufacturing sector. [EPI, [10/2/08](#)]

Indiana Has Lost More Than 239,000 Manufacturing Jobs Since 2000. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, in April 2009, there were 455,000 manufacturing jobs in Indiana. In January 2000, 694,100 Hoosiers worked in the manufacturing sector. [BLS, [5/22/09](#); [3/28/00](#)]

IMPACT OF CHILDREN’S HEALTH CARE ON INDIANA:

Chamber Opposed 2009 Bill to Expand Children’s Health Care. In a January 2009 letter to Congress, R. Bruce Josten of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce urged members to vote against the Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009, writing that the bill “raises taxes on a narrow sector of the U.S. economy with the aim of funding a broad-based entitlement program, which is grossly unfair and burdensome to American businesses and consumers.” [Chamber Letter, [1/14/09](#)]

Chamber Opposed 2007 Bill to Expand Children’s Health Care. In September 2007, the Phoenix Business Journal reported, “The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is opposing a federal plan to raise tobacco taxes to fund government-provided health services for uninsured children. That puts the U.S. Chamber on the same side of the issue as the Bush administration.” “To prejudice a narrow sector of the U.S. economy with the aim of funding a broad-based entitlement program is grossly unfair and burdensome to American businesses and consumers,” said the chamber in a letter to congressional leaders on the issue. [Phoenix Business Journal, [9/26/07](#); Chamber Letter, [7/17/07](#)]

66,200 Indiana Children Could Gain Coverage Under the 2009 SCHIP Expansion. A 2009 report from Families USA found that 66,200 Indiana children could be covered under the 2009 bill to expand and reauthorize the State Children’s Health Insurance Program. [Families USA, [January 2009](#)]

Children's Health Care Reauthorization Will Bring \$960 Million Into Indiana, Creating 4,564 Jobs. In 2007, a Families USA study found: "With \$50 billion in additional federal funding for SCHIP and Medicaid, SCHIP reauthorization could bring Indiana approximately \$960.4 million in new federal funding for children's health coverage over the next five years. This would result in the state getting three times the amount it would have otherwise gotten for SCHIP... Over the next five years, \$960.4 million in new federal funding will create: \$394.9 million in increased business activity, \$142.9 million in increased wages, and 4,564 additional jobs for Indiana." [Families USA, [May 2007](#)]

IMPACT OF MEDICARE ON INDIANA:

Chamber Opposed 2008 Bill to Prevent Medicare Cuts. In June 2008, R. Bruce Josten of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce wrote that the Chamber opposed the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008, S. 3101, because it would cut the Medicare Advantage program. Referring to the bill, and the cuts to the private insurance Medicare Advantage program, the American Medical Association aired an ad saying "A group of U.S. senators voted to protect the powerful insurance companies at the expense of Medicare patients' access to doctors." [Chamber Letter, [6/12/08](#); AP, [7/2/08](#)]

865,792 Medicare Beneficiaries, Along With 90,439 Military Members and Their Families, Would Have Been Affected If 2008 Medicare Cuts Had Gone Through. In 2008, the Chamber opposed a bill that prevented a 10.6% cut in Medicare payments to doctors. According to the American Medical Association, 865,792 Medicare patients and 90,439 TRICARE patients in Indiana would have been affected by these cuts. [American Medical Association, [February 2009](#)]

IMPACT OF SOCIAL SECURITY ON INDIANA:

U.S. Chamber Opposed the 1935 Social Security Act. According to an official history of Social Security, "In 1935, while there were long debate and votes on many amendments, the Congress passed the Social Security Act by an overwhelming majority. In the House, the vote was 372 yeas, 33 nays and 25 not voting. The vote in the Senate was equally positive, with 77 yeas, 6 nays and 12 not voting. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the Act into law on August 14, 1935. Despite the strong support, there was vocal opposition to the Act, both in the Congress and externally. The minority members of the House Ways and Means Committee said it would impose a crushing burden upon industry and upon labor. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers opposed the bill." [SSA History: [History of SSA 1993-2000](#)]

U.S. Chamber Wanted to Postpone 1935 Social Security Act. In June 1935, the New York Times reported on a "broad program for recovery and re-employment" adopted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. On Social Security, they reported, "The chamber will continue to advocate that enactment of the major features of the pending social security legislation be postponed until there can be further examination by a Congressional committee. If a study of this character is made, the chamber will present to such a committee its views as to the constitutionality of the legislation as

proposed and will emphasize the fact that the proposals now pending would double the entire present volume of Federal taxes.” [New York Times, [6/16/35](#)]

U.S. Chamber President: Any Social Security Reform “Must” Include Privatization. In June 2005, Thomas J. Donohue, President of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, co-wrote an op-ed that stated, “any Social Security reform must meet four core principles,” including “Giving younger workers the option of investing part of their payroll taxes in personal retirement accounts.” In January 2005, Donohue “said a Social Security overhaul is ‘doable’ this year and said the Chamber believes ‘individual investment accounts must be an important component of reform.’ [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, [6/7/05](#); National Journal’s CongressDaily, 1/5/05]

If Social Security Were Privatized, Indiana Would Lose At Least \$4.7 BILLION Every Year. According to a 2005 report by the National Women’s Law Center, “In 2002, \$10.4 billion flowed into the Indiana economy through Social Security benefits.” If the cuts expected under President Bush’s plan were to take effect currently, “Indiana would lose \$4.7 billion per year, even including the proceeds from private accounts. This amount is equivalent to 26% of state government expenditures in fiscal year 2002 (state government expenditures include money generated from state funds, federal funds, and the sale of state bonds).” [National Women’s Law Center, [February 2005](#)]

Privatizing Social Security Would Impose an \$18.3 BILLION Unfunded Mandate on Indiana. According to the Institute for America’s Future in 2005, the Bush Social Security privatization plan would create a new \$18.3 billion unfunded federal mandate on the state of Indiana and would plunge at least 138,000 Indiana seniors into poverty. [Institute for America’s Future, [April 2005](#)]

Women in Indiana Would Be Hard Hit If Social Security Were Privatized, With Widow’s Benefit Dropping \$4,968 Per Year. According to a 2005 report by the National Women’s Law Center, “The typical recipient of a Social Security widow’s benefit in Indiana receives \$919 per month (\$11,028 per year). According to the Congressional Budget Office, under Plan 2 of the President’s Commission to Strengthen Social Security, today’s kindergarteners are projected to receive 45% less than they are promised under current law, even when the proceeds from their private accounts are included in the total. If such a cut were to take effect currently, the typical widow in Indiana would receive only \$505 per month (\$6,060 per year), an amount equal to only 70% of the poverty line.” [National Women’s Law Center, [February 2005](#)]

IMPACT OF WORKER SAFETY ON INDIANA:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Vigorously Opposed Occupational Safety Regulations. In an article written between the initial bill supported by President Johnson and the second bill, that passed, supported by President Nixon, the New York Times reported: “The first legislation providing for a comprehensive nationwide system of health and safety standards was proposed last year by President Johnson. Strongly supported by labor, the bill ran into immediate and vigorous

opposition from industry, led by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.” [New York Times, [12/10/69](#)]

- **The U.S. Chamber of Commerce “led the fight to defeat the 1968 bill.”** [New York Times, [3/19/70](#)]

U.S. Chamber Argued That OSHA Was a Failure. In 1979, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce charged “that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration had failed to reduce worker injuries and illnesses significantly since its inception in 1970.” Mark De Bernardo of the Chamber wrote, “In the wake of piles of more O.S.H.A. rules and paperwork, fatal injuries on the job soared by more than 24 percent from 1976 to 1977.” [New York Times, [8/27/79](#)]

U.S. Chamber Spokesman Said OSHA Is a “Blatant Denial of Fundamental Fairness.” When describing the structure of the Labor Department within the Executive Branch rather than the Judicial Branch of the government, Richard Berman, then director of labor law for the United States Chamber of Commerce, said “This has a chilling effect on an employer's exercise of his right to appeal and is thus a blatant denial of fundamental fairness.” Berman now runs the Center for Union Facts, a corporate front group trying to defeat the Employee Free Choice Act. [U.S. News & World Report, 11/24/75; New York Times, [1/9/09](#)]

In 2007, 5.2 Workplace Injuries Were Reported for Every 100 Workers in Indiana. In 2007, there were 5.2 cases of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses for every 100 workers in Indiana. In addition, 127 Hoosiers reportedly died as a result of workplace injuries in 2007. [BLS Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, [2007](#); BLS Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, [2007](#)]