

Virginia Must Defend Its Youngest Workers

Lawmakers should reject any attempts to further gut the minimum wage for those under 18

Background: Historic progress on minimum wage in 2020

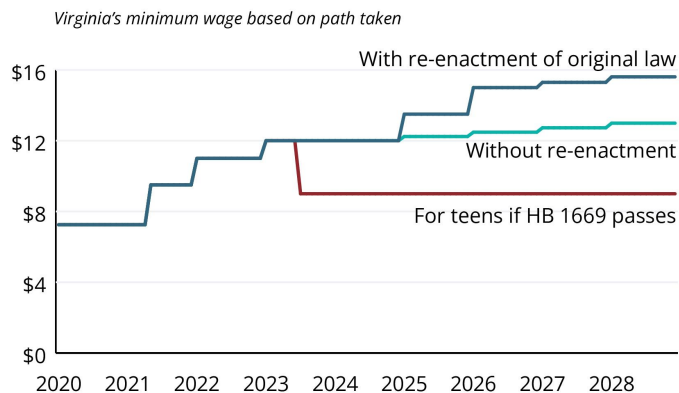
Virginia enacted legislation that raised the minimum wage from \$7.25 in January 2020 to \$12 by January 2023. The minimum wage legislation was expected to benefit nearly 800,000 people by 2023, and more than half of all workers who were expected to benefit from a stronger minimum wage are workers of color. Lawmakers need to re-enact the 2020 law (HB 395) in order to deliver on the promise of a \$15 minimum wage by 2026.

Threats to progress: HB 1669 punishes Virginia's youngest workers

This year, with families already under immense pressure to make ends meet, Del. Daniel Marshall has introduced a bill (HB 1669) that would lower the minimum wage for any worker under the age of 18.

This penalizes young adults and their families. Whether it's to save for college, support family with the household bills, or work toward financial independence, Virginia's youth perform skilled work every day to benefit their local communities. HB 1669 is an affront to the skills and hours put in by the Commonwealth's youngest workers. In addition to its disproportionate impact on Black and brown workers, HB 1669 will also disproportionately impact youth in rural communities and those who are first or second-generation immigrant children.

Wages for Working Youth Threatened: House Bill 1669 Would Take Us Backward and Harm Young People



Source: TCI analysis of 2020 minimum wage legislation and HB 1669 (2023)



Lawmakers must ensure Virginia's youth are properly compensated for their labor and reject HB 1669.