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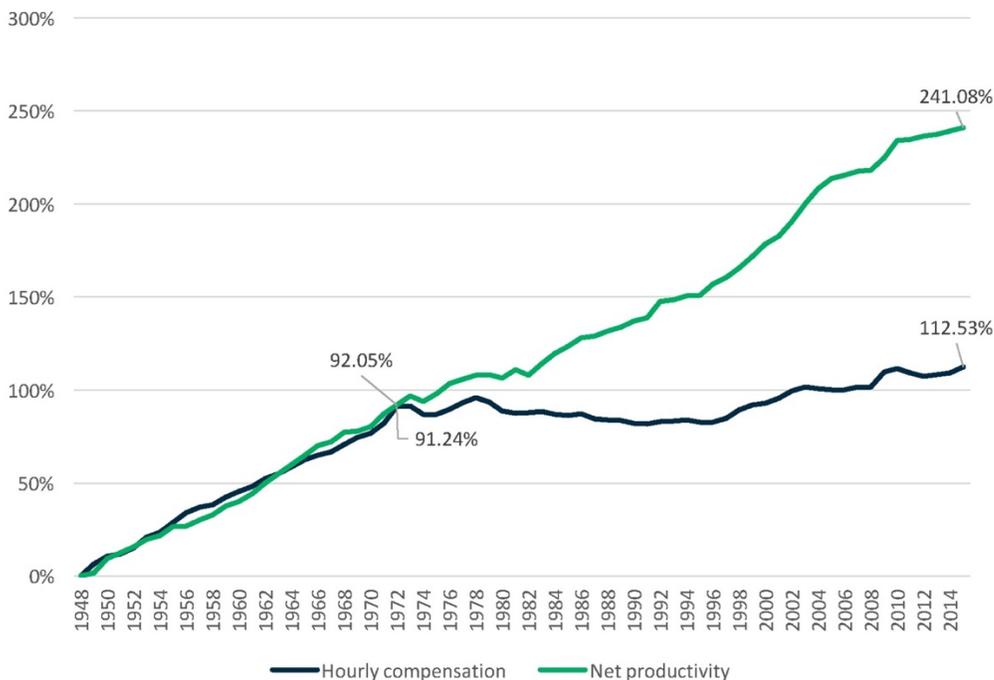
Policy Matters calls for \$15 state minimum wage by 2025

Columbus - Today Policy Matters workforce researcher Hannah Halbert joined House Assistant Democratic Whip Brigid Kelly (D-Cincinnati) Senate Assistant Democratic Whip Cecil Thomas (D-Cincinnati) State Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) and Cleveland-area nursing home employee Chaundra Kidd to call for a modernized minimum wage. Below is Halbert's statement:

Ohio's economy has grown more than 65 percent in a generation. The workers who created this wealth have not shared in the growth. The poorest 30 percent of workers have lost about 40 cents per hour in wages since 1979. This means a family of three with a breadwinner working full-time at minimum wage would earn \$3,500 *below* the poverty line.

Production and compensation used to grow together, now grow apart

U.S. net production and average hourly compensation 1948-2015



Note: Data are for average hourly compensation of production/nonsupervisory workers in the private sector and net productivity of the total economy. "Net productivity" is the growth of output of goods and services minus depreciation per hour worked.
Source: EPI analysis of data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) (see the technical appendix of Bivens and Mishel 2015 for more detailed information)

Raising the state minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2025 would slowly rebuild its purchasing power, helping working families and supporting local spending. Some 1.8 million Ohio workers, who make the minimum wage or earn close to the minimum, would see gains from raising the wage. More than 700,000 Ohio children have a parent who would get a raise. Forty-one percent of women and 28 percent of men would get a raise. Raising the minimum would shrink the pay gap between black and white workers, which grew from \$1.65 to \$3.30 an hour between 1979 and 2016.

Working Ohio needs a raise. Since 1979, despite tremendous growth in the national economy, 60 percent of Ohio workers have seen their inflation-adjusted wages decline in comparison to workers of the previous generation. This despite the fact that workers today are more likely to have a high school diploma or college degree. Seven of Ohio's 10 most common jobs are in occupations that have an annual median wage less than 130 percent of the poverty level for a family of three. This means a typical worker in that field could work full-time, year-round and still need food assistance to feed a family. This has not always been true in Ohio. In 2000, just four of the 10 most common jobs would have left a working family in this position.

Working for less			
Most common occupations in Ohio by employment, and median annual wage, 2000 and 2016			
Top 10 occupations 2000	Median annual earnings as a share of poverty	Top 10 occupations 2016	Median annual earnings as a share of poverty
Retail Salespersons*	114%	Food Prep and Serving Workers, including Fast Food **	94%
Cashiers*	100%	Retail Salesperson*-	107%
Food Prep and Serving Workers, including Fast Food*	93%	Registered Nurses^	309%
Laborers and Freight, Stock and Material Movers	142%	Cashiers*-	96%
Registered Nurses	299%	Laborers and Freight, Stock and Material Movers*-	127%
General and Operations Managers	407%	Waiters and Waitresses*	94%
Office Clerks	146%	Office Clerks-	145%
Team Assemblers	167%	Customer Service Reps-	154%
Janitors and Cleaners, except Maids and Housekeeping*	124%	Janitors and Cleaners, except Maids and Housekeeping*-	116%
Customer Service Reps	175%	Stock Clerks and Order Fillers*	117%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Survey, 2000 state estimates and May 2016 estimates, at <https://www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm>, May 12, 2017. Largest detail occupations in Ohio by employment. Median annual earnings shown as share of the poverty threshold for a family of three in 2000 (\$14,150) and 2016 (\$20,160). Gross monthly income threshold for food assistance is generally 130 percent of poverty. (*) occupations have median annual earnings under 130% of poverty for a family of three. (^) means median annual earnings increased since 2000, (-) means median annual earnings decreased since 2000.

As of 2014, the state's wealthiest 1 percent earned more than 19 times the average of the bottom 99 percent of earners combined. Restoring the value of the minimum wage by raising it to \$15 an hour by 2025 would help offset some of this vast imbalance and bring some new security and peace of mind to working Ohioans.