

# Idaho Democratic Party

## For Immediate Release

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Contact: Dean A. Ferguson (208) 790-4530 or Sally Boynton Brown (208) 440-2374

### **Idaho Low Wages Result from Years of Failed GOP Policies**

*Boise, Idaho*—IDP Chairman Larry Kenck made this statement in response to news that Idaho leads the nation in the percentage of workers who earn the minimum wage:

Idaho has suffered from decades of GOP policies that do very little to encourage high-paying businesses to re-locate to Idaho or to stay in Idaho.

Every time you ask businesses to name their top need, they will say a "well-educated and qualified workforce." So, while Idaho leads the nation in minimum wage workers, we are at the absolute bottom of the nation in our investment in education. To make matters worse, just last year our legislators chose to give \$35.7 million in cuts to the wealthiest Idahoans even though education budgets still remain far below pre-recession levels.

We need responsible leadership in our state and we as citizens must hold our state elected leaders accountable for the terrible priorities that put workers and education—and ultimately, businesses—last. And, remember, the story about our shameful minimum wage problem is just a statistic in the newspaper and to the legislature and governor, but out here in the real world it isn't a statistic at all—it's real families of hardworking Idahoans who need fair wages and a fair shot at prosperity to give their children the bright futures they deserve.

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