



Opinion

Betsy Stevenson

Five myths about the minimum wage

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More than **13 years ago**

Betsy Stevenson, an associate professor of public policy at the University of Michigan, served as chief economist of the Labor Department from 2010 to 2011.

In February's State of the Union address, President Obama provoked conservatives' ire by proposing an increase in the minimum wage from \$7.25 per hour to \$9. Especially in a struggling economy, wouldn't a minimum-wage boost increase unemployment and hurt small businesses? And would it even help the working poor? Let's unpack some of the assumptions about the minimum wage that have stuck around since its creation almost eight decades ago.



