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Senior Thesis

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Abstract of *Microeconomic Sustainability of the State Minimum Wage in Massachusetts*

If you have ever worked a minimum wage job, you may understand that the pay likely won't get you far. In my thesis, I broke down the most minimal living expenses for the city of Boston and proved how the current statewide minimum wage, \$15.00 per hour, is vastly unsustainable and leads to systemic poverty and social justice issues that are rampant within the city. For someone who makes a minimum wage salary and wishes to live downtown, they would need to work ~62 hours a week to be able to afford rent alone. Now, in order to make ends meet sustainably, and ideally thrive, Boston itself becomes a less-than-ideal place to want to live. While working in the city, this person will likely need to move to a lower-income neighborhood, and if they have a family, they have a higher chance of falling victim to greater social justice issues caused by low incomes. This can all be explained in Microeconomic terms as a classic yet unfortunate example of inflationary mismatch, where due to the rise of living expenses in today's day and age, paired with a price floor set by the minimum wage, more people who are under paid, are forced into other consequences like increased commuting, housing displacement, and all-in-all downward economic mobility.