

# HAPPY 1<sup>ST</sup> BIRTHDAY TO CALIFORNIA'S CRAPPIEST LAW



California's \$20 minimum wage is a total mess.  
It's flushed away 16,000 fast food jobs, restaurants are  
shutting down, and menu prices have surged by double digits.

**IT STINKS FOR WORKERS. IT STINKS FOR  
BUSINESS OWNERS. IT STINKS FOR CONSUMERS.**

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SOURCES: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS QUARTERLY CENSUS OF EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES, SEPTEMBER 2023-2024; EMPLOYMENT POLICIES INSTITUTE, "CRISIS IN CALIFORNIA: A SURVEY OF FAST FOOD EMPLOYERS' RESPONSES TO CALIFORNIA'S \$20 MINIMUM WAGE," JULY 2024; BERKELEY RESEARCH GROUP, "IMPACT OF THE \$20 PER HOUR MINIMUM WAGE ON CALIFORNIA'S FAST FOOD WORKERS: EARLY INDICATIONS," FEBRUARY 2025.

PAID FOR BY THE EMPLOYMENT POLICIES INSTITUTE