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Getting Ahead

Friday, October 7 at 9 p.m. on PBS

Featured Interviewees

BERKELEY, CA

Small Business Owner

- Nina Cooper of Nina Cooper Designs, who is convinced that a possible \$19 an hour minimum wage in Berkeley will destroy small businesses.

EMERYVILLE, CA

Wage Earner

- Patrick Choa, manager at Ikea, who reads an anonymous heartfelt thank-you note from an employee about the impact of the wage increase.
- Shonda Roberts, who has spent her adult life working in fast food restaurants, and is a champion of the minimum wage increases that are benefitting her bottom line.

OAKLAND, CA

Small Business Owner

- Danny Huang, a Chinatown merchant, who is concerned that he cannot raise his prices enough to keep pace with paying mandated increases in wages.

- Asiya Jabbaar, director of a small state accredited day care center, who is reducing her full-time staff to one part-time worker. She is concerned that, as a teacher, she is being priced out of keeping her day care center open.

Wage Earner

- Eunice Medina, who worked at Jabbaar's Day Care Center and had to take a different job when her hours were cut.
- Maria Martinez and Jamie Gaucin who, while trying to raise three children on minimum wage jobs, are forced to seek public assistance to make ends meet.

BORDER BETWEEN EMERYVILLE & OAKLAND, CA

Small Business Owner

- Sal Bednarz, owner of Actual Café, who is an outspoken supporter of increasing the minimum wage but now worries that his very slim profit margin may not be sustainable.

Wage Earner

- Marcelino Manzares, who is a line cook at Actual Café and says the increases, while welcome, are not enough to offset rising rents in Oakland.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Small Business Owner

- Sam Mogannam who owns Bi-Rite Markets and Catering and has over 300 employees. He knows that he can only raise his prices so high before he loses customers.

Wage Earner

- Benjamin Watterson, who works at Bi-Rite Market and is now struggling to stay in the middle class while his wife, Alicia Baird, is temporarily unemployed.
- Ada Olmedo, a cashier at Bi-Rite, who says the increases are making a positive difference in her family's life.

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