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Iowa Latino civil rights group supports proposal to raise minimum wage

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DES MOINES – The League of United Latin American Citizens of Iowa has announced the civil rights organization supports Iowa Sen. Jack Hatch's proposal to raise the state's minimum wage.

Hatch, who represents Des Moines, this week said he would seek to raise the state's minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour. Currently, the state's minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour.

"Many Latinos work minimum wage jobs – some even multiple jobs – and this increase would give them a chance to better provide for their families, and improve their economic situation and livelihood," said Joe Enriquez Henry, the state director of Iowa LULAC.

One in five Latinos earns minimum wage, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Nationally, twenty-three percent live in poverty. That number is even higher in Iowa: Almost 33 percent of the state's Latino population lived in poverty in 2011, according to the State Data Center of Iowa.

Founded in 1929, the League of United Latin American Citizens is the oldest Latino civil rights organization in the United States. There are more than 880 local LULAC councils, which hold voter registration drives, provide awareness to residents about language and immigration issues, sponsor programs and advocate for Latinos.

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