

AMERICANS FOR TAX FAIRNESS REPORT

THE WALMART TAX SUBSIDY: WALMART'S WAGE HIKE TO \$10/HOUR STILL REQUIRES LARGE TAXPAYER SUBSIDIES

APRIL 1, 2015 - MAY 29, 2015

[THE FULL REPORT CAN BE FOUND HERE](#)

NEWS ARTICLES	4
Blog: Report: Despite Walmart's Pay Hike, Employee Wages Will Still Cost Taxpayers Money -- <i>Progress Illinois</i>	4
In defense of Walmart: Why corporations shouldn't be responsible for preventing poverty -- <i>The Week</i>	5
Blog: Walmart Heir Does Not Deserve Assets It Would Take a Worker a Million Years to Earn -- <i>Truth-Out</i>	6
Editorial: A new corporate welfare -- <i>The Albany Times Union (NY)</i>	6
6 Of The Fastest-Growing Jobs In America Pay Low Wages -- <i>The Huffington Post</i>	7
Giant hikes minimum wage to \$9 -- <i>The Daily Item (PA)</i>	7
Blog: The Truth About Walmart and Their People Failures -- <i>The Good Men Project</i>	8
This CEO Is Taking Minimum Wage Hikes Into His Own Hands — At \$70K Per Year -- <i>News.Mic</i>	8
Taxpayers Spend Billions On Government Help For Low-Wage Workers -- <i>International Business Times</i>	9
Despite pay hike, Walmart workers still need help -- CBS News	9
When Wal-Mart Comes To Town, What Does It Mean For Workers? -- <i>National Public Radio</i>	10
Workers respond to McDonald's pay increase: we fight on -- <i>The Guardian</i>	10
Report: Wal-Mart's Wage Hike Insufficient to Keep Workers Off the Dole -- <i>Newsmax</i>	10
Blog: Two New Reports Detail How Walmart Keeps Profits High, Wages Down -- <i>AFL-CIO</i>	10
Following the crowd, McDonald's pledges to raise wages -- <i>The Washington Post</i>	11
Seattle's Wage Hike Reminds Us a \$9 Minimum Wage Isn't Enough -- <i>The Huffington Post</i>	11

Walmart Gave Workers a Raise—But It's Not Enough To Keep Them Off the Dole -- <i>Mother Jones</i>	12
Walmart's Higher Wages Still Not High Enough -- <i>Gawker</i>	12
Blog: Even With Wage Increase, Walmart Workers Will Still Need Public Assistance -- <i>Think Progress</i>	13
Blog: Walmart raised its pay. But it's still so low workers qualify for government aid -- <i>The Daily Kos</i>	13
Blog: Walmart's Wage Hike Still Puts Taxpayers on the Hook -- <i>RH Reality Check</i>	13
SYNDICATED OP-EDs	14
Op-Ed: Walmart's Small Wage Increase Not Enough for Employees, Taxpayers -- <i>The Huffington Post</i>	14
Op-Ed: Walmart's small wage increase not enough for employees, taxpayers -- <i>The Atlanta Inquirer (GA)</i>	15
Op-Ed: Walmart's small wage increase not enough for employees, taxpayers -- <i>The Newton Daily News (IA)</i>	16
Op-Ed: Walmart's small wage increase not enough -- <i>The Bradford Journal Opinion (VT)</i>	16
Op-Ed: Small increase not enough -- <i>The Illinois Times (IL)</i>	16
Op-Ed: Despite hike, taxpayers required -- <i>The Tideland News (NC)</i>	16
Op-Ed: Walmart's small wage increase not enough -- <i>The Grant County Herald (MN)</i>	16
Op-Ed: Small increase not enough -- <i>The Sun Advocate (UT)</i>	16
Op-Ed: Wal-Mart's small wage increase not enough for employees, taxpayers -- <i>The Cap Times: Madison (WI)</i>	17
Op-Ed: Wal-Mart's small wage increase not enough for employees, taxpayers -- <i>The Phoenix Reporter & Item (AZ)</i>	17
Op-Ed: Says Walmart can afford to provide employees a \$15-an-hour wage -- <i>The Southwest News-Herald (IL)</i>	17
Op-Ed: Walmart's small pay hike not enough for workers or taxpayers -- <i>Bucks County Courier Times (PA)</i>	17
Op-Ed: Walmart's critics say minimum wage increase not enough to help taxpayers -- <i>The Mountain View Telegraph (NM)</i>	17
Op-Ed: Walmart's critics say minimum wage increase not enough to help taxpayers -- <i>The Salinas Californian (CA)</i>	18
Op-Ed: Walmart's critics say minimum wage increase not enough to help taxpayers -- <i>The Mountain Mail (CO)</i>	18

Op-Ed: Walmart's small minimum wage increase not enough to help employees, taxpayers -- <i>The Albion New Era (IN)</i>	18
Op-Ed: Walmart's critics say minimum wage increase not enough to help taxpayers -- <i>KPC News (IN)</i>	18
Op-Ed: Walmart's small wage increase not enough -- <i>The Floyd County Times (KY)</i>	18
Op-Ed: Walmart's small wage increase -- <i>The Harlan Daily (KY)</i>	19
Op-Ed: Walmart's small wage increase -- <i>The Middlesboro Daily News (KY)</i>	19
Op-Ed: Walmart's critics say minimum wage increase not enough to help taxpayers -- <i>The New Bedford Standard-Times (MA)</i>	19
Op-Ed: Walmart's small wage increase not enough for employees, taxpayers -- <i>The Taunton Daily Gazette (MA)</i>	19
Op-Ed: Walmart's critics say minimum wage increase not enough to help taxpayers -- <i>The Winona Daily News (MN)</i>	19
Op-Ed: Walmart's small minimum wage increase not enough to help employees, taxpayers -- <i>The Brooklyn Daily Eagle (NY)</i>	20
Op-Ed: Walmart's critics say minimum wage increase not enough to help taxpayers -- <i>The Lockport Union-Sun & Journal (NY)</i>	20
Op-Ed: Walmart's small wage increase not enough for employees, taxpayers -- <i>The Middletown Press & Journal (PA)</i>	20
Op-Ed: Walmart's small wage increase not enough -- <i>The Ridgway Record (PA)</i>	20
Op-Ed: Raise pay to \$15 at county Walgreens -- <i>The Myrtle Beach Sun News (SC)</i>	20
Op-Ed: Walmart's small wage increase -- <i>The Claiborne Progress (TN)</i>	21
Op-Ed: Walmart's critics say minimum wage increase not enough to help taxpayers -- <i>The Fort Stockton Pioneer (TX)</i>	21
Op-Ed: Walmart's critics say minimum wage increase not enough to help taxpayers -- <i>The Humble Observer (TX)</i>	21
Op-Ed: Walmart's critics say minimum wage increase not enough to help taxpayers -- <i>The Potpourri: Magnolia Edition (TX)</i>	21
Op-Ed: Walmart's wage hike not nearly enough -- <i>The Mecklenburg Sun (VA)</i>	21
Op-Ed: Walmart's critics say minimum wage increase not enough to help taxpayers -- <i>The Wicked Local: North Attleborough (MA)</i>	22
Op-Ed: Walmart's critics say minimum wage increase not enough to help taxpayers -- <i>The Wicked Local: Rehoboth (MA)</i>	22
Op-Ed: Walmart's wage increase not enough -- <i>The Laconia Citizen (NH)</i>	22

Op-Ed: Walmart's wage increase not enough for employees or taxpayers -- <i>The Kent County Daily Times (RI)</i>	22
Op-Ed: Walmart's critics say minimum wage increase not enough to help taxpayers -- <i>The North Dallas Gazette (TX)</i>	22
Op-Ed: Walmart's small wage increase not enough for employees, taxpayers -- <i>Your Houston News: Atascocita Observer (TX)</i>	23
Op-Ed: Walmart's small wage increase not enough for employees, taxpayers -- <i>The Augusta Free Press (VA)</i>	23
Op-Ed: Walmart's small wage increase not enough for employees, taxpayers -- <i>The Newport Daily Express (VT)</i>	23
Op-Ed: Walmart's small wage increase not enough for employees, taxpayers -- <i>Deer Park Broadcaster (TX)</i>	23
Op-Ed: Walmart's small minimum wage increase not enough to help employees, taxpayers -- <i>The Potpourri: Tomball Edition (TX)</i>	23
Op-Ed: Walmart's small wage increase not enough for employees, taxpayers -- <i>Your Houston News: Spring Observer (TX)</i>	24
Op-Ed: Walmart's small wage increase not enough for employees, taxpayers -- <i>Your Houston News: Friendswood Journal(TX)</i>	24

NEWS ARTICLES

Blog: Report: Despite Walmart's Pay Hike, Employee Wages Will Still Cost Taxpayers Money -- Progress Illinois

By Ellyn Fortino
May 8, 2015

Even though Walmart has moved to increase employee wages, new data shows that the company's workers will still cost U.S. taxpayers a pretty penny to make up for the dismal earnings they bring home from working for the retail giant.

Last year, **Americans for Tax Fairness** issued a report stating that U.S. taxpayers pick up a \$6.2 billion tab annually to cover public aid expenses for Walmart workers earning low wages...

...In light of Walmart's new wage policy, **Americans for Tax Fairness** re-examined the taxpayer subsidy issue.

"Even after Walmart's planned wage increases are fully implemented, large taxpayer subsidies will still be required to compensate for Walmart's low wages," the group concludes in its newest report.

Americans for Tax Fairness, a coalition of over 400 organizations advocating for progressive tax reforms, was unable to provide a dollar figure for those large subsidies it says taxpayers will have to shoulder after Walmart's higher wages are fully in place.

Americans for Tax Fairness was able to determine that a Walmart employee working 34 hours a week -- the company's full-time standard -- at \$9 an hour would make \$15,912 a year...

...At \$15 an hour, a person working full-time at 40 hours per week would earn an annual salary of \$31,200 -- enough to pull many Walmart workers above the income level at which they qualify for public assistance programs, **Americans for Tax Fairness** finds.

For its part, Walmart has disputed the claim that it costs U.S. taxpayers \$6.2 billion per year to cover public aid expenses for Walmart workers, saying **American For Tax Fairness'** study used inaccurate information and was "based on promoting their agenda rather than on the facts."

...But **Americans for Tax Fairness** argues that Walmart, the world's largest retailer, could well afford to pay its workers a minimum hourly wage of \$15.

Frank Clemente, the group's executive director, points out that Walmart "is majority owned by four of the nation's richest billionaires."

"This report has a simple finding: if Walmart paid its workers \$15 an hour, taxpayers wouldn't have to pick up Walmart's tab," **Clemente** added.

In defense of Walmart: Why corporations shouldn't be responsible for preventing poverty -- *The Week*

By Ryan Cooper
April 22, 2015

Fast food chains and low-wage retailers are as poorly regarded in pop culture as they are popular among the buying public. Walmart is the epitome: as beloved for its low prices as it is hated for its low wages. But as the largest single private employer in the country, is Walmart really responsible for keeping its workers out of poverty?

In a sort of ideological jujitsu, that's what many left-leaning analysts argue. Walmart, like all low-wage corporations, tends to depend on public assistance for its very existence — both to keep its employees off the street and as a critical source of purchasing power for its target sales demographics. Last April, a report by **Americans for Tax Fairness** calculated that Walmart cost the U.S. \$6.2 billion in public assistance, from food stamps — sometimes used by its own workers at its own stores — to Medicaid...

Blog: Walmart Heir Does Not Deserve Assets It Would Take a Worker a Million Years to Earn -- Truth-Out

By Mark Karlin
April 20, 2015

..Don't be fooled by Walmart's announcement that it is raising its lowest wage to \$10 per hour for full-time workers by 2016. As **Frank Clemente of Americans for Tax Fairness** recently wrote on the Huffington Post:

“You don't need a Walmart front-door greeter to find the flaw in the company's recently announced boost in worker wages: It's not enough. Not enough to pull its lowest-paid workers out of poverty, and therefore not enough to get American taxpayers off the hook for subsidizing the giant retailer's low-wage payroll.”

That's right: Walmart, the world's biggest company, with billions of dollars in profits, relies on you and me to make up the difference between what it pays a large portion of its workforce and what those employees actually need to survive...

Editorial: A new corporate welfare -- The Albany Times Union (NY)

By The Editorial Board
April 19, 2015

...According to a report released by the group **Americans for Tax Fairness**, government programs for the poor provide \$6.2 billion annually just for employees of Walmart, the nation's largest private employer. The coalition of 400 state and national progressive organizations based its estimates on data from a 2013 study by Democratic staff of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Walmart, which ranked first on the 2014 Fortune 500 list of the world's largest companies by revenue, made \$16 billion in profits last year, according to its own website. Yet its workers,

including 37,000 in New York State, are among the lowest paid. The market-research firm IBISWorld found that, as of 2011, the average pay for an "associate" at Walmart was the poverty-level wage of \$8.81 per hour.

Americans for Tax Fairness points out another irony — Walmart is a major beneficiary of the government's programs to help the working poor, who are eligible for the federal SNAP program, which replaced food stamps. Many of those same low-paid workers who are eligible for food assistance spend billions buying their groceries at Walmart...

6 Of The Fastest-Growing Jobs In America Pay Low Wages -- The Huffington Post

By Jenny Che
April 16, 2015

...In February, retail giant Walmart increased wages to \$9 for its lowest-paid workers. Rivals such as T.J. Maxx, Marshalls and Target soon followed suit. But many of these low-income workers rely on government assistance programs, and \$9 an hour still forces them to remain tied to Medicaid and food stamps, according to a study by the advocacy group **Americans for Tax Fairness**...

Giant hikes minimum wage to \$9 -- The Daily Item (PA)

By Joe Sylvester
April 16, 2015

Giant Food Stores, which operates two supermarkets in the Valley with another under construction, is joining a growing list of companies that are boosting the wages of their lowest-paid employees...

...In February, Wal-Mart increased wages to \$9 for its lowest-paid workers. Rivals such as T.J. Maxx, Marshalls and Target followed. But many of these low-income workers rely on government assistance programs, and \$9 an hour still forces them to remain tied to Medicaid and food stamps, according to a study by the advocacy group **Americans for Tax Fairness**...

Blog: The Truth About Walmart and Their People Failures -- *The Good Men Project*

By TJ Trent
April 16, 2015

It has become cliché to say, “Our employees are our most important resources.” This phrase is passed around in every MBA course known to man. In business school, future executives are forced this mantra in preparation for life after school. Business school teaches future executives how to value every conceivable aspect of a business, except our most valuable resource—the men and woman who contact our customers, make them feel special, and keep them coming back for more. Without these men and woman, would you even have a business?...

...Don't believe me, keep reading and take a look at the facts.

- According to the **Americans for Tax Fairness**, Walmart cost taxpayers 6.2 billion dollars annually in the form of government subsidies. This might include food stamps as well as government-subsidized health care.

This CEO Is Taking Minimum Wage Hikes Into His Own Hands — At \$70K Per Year -- *News.Mic*

By Tom McKay
April 14, 2015

If only everyone had a boss like Dan Price, owner of credit card processor Gravity Payments, maybe income inequality wouldn't be at its worst since 1928.

After reading a study on happiness that suggested extra money makes a big difference in the lives of people who make under \$70,000 a year, Price did something that would never occur to most CEOs. He told his staff that over the next three years, every employee of his company will make at least \$70,000, reports the New York Times.

...Take Wal-Mart, for example. It pays its staff so little money that **Americans for Tax Fairness** estimates the government spends about \$7.8 billion a year in food stamps, Medicaid, subsidized housing and other government benefits supporting its low-wage workers...

Taxpayers Spend Billions On Government Help For Low-Wage Workers -- *International Business Times*

By Cole Stangler
April 14, 2015

Although she works 40 hours a week, it's hard for Cheyenne Mathieu to support herself and her four-year-old son without a little help. As a nonunion home care aide in suburban Hartford, Connecticut, Mathieu, 21, earns \$9.15 an hour for homemaking and \$9.75 an hour for companionship. The former involves daily chores like cleaning and cooking for her clients; the latter includes work outside the home like picking up groceries and going on walks...

...Walmart said in February it would boost pay for some 500,000 employees to at least \$9 by April, and McDonald's announced it would raise wages for about 100,000 employees to \$1 above local minimum wages. But employees who earn \$10 an hour and work 34 hours a week still reel in less than \$18,000 in annual income, as a separate report this month from **Americans for Tax Fairness** highlighted. With two or more members in their household, workers at that pay grade would still qualify for Medicaid, food stamps and the earned income tax credit in addition to child care and housing aid programs...

Despite pay hike, Walmart workers still need help -- CBS News

By Kate Gibson
April 2, 2015

Walmart's highly publicized pay hike is a victory of sorts for its 1.3 million employees, but American taxpayers will foot the bill for the large subsidies that will still be needed to compensate for the discount retailer's low wages.

That's the finding of a report published Wednesday by Americans for Tax Fairness, which calculated that this month's increase to at least \$9 an hour for Walmart workers won't be enough to get many of them off public assistance.

"Most people think those abusing the system are the poor, and often the undeserving poor, but this report reveals that workers who are actually working full-time and hard, but just can't cut it on these wages, and the rest of us are helping them along," Frank Clemente, the ATF's executive director told CBS MoneyWatch. "Ideally, you'd want the companies employing these people to pay the full freight."..

When Wal-Mart Comes To Town, What Does It Mean For Workers? -- National Public Radio

By Jennifer Ludden and Yuki Noguchi
April 2, 2015

...This week, Wal-Mart will raise its minimum pay to \$9 an hour nationwide, and then again to \$10 an hour next year. Jabbie says she's happy about that — she feels it's a response to the efforts of activists like herself. But a report released Thursday by **Americans for Tax Fairness**, a left-leaning advocacy group, finds that a full-time Wal-Mart worker would need to earn at least \$15 an hour in order to stop qualifying for public assistance programs like food stamps...

Workers respond to McDonald's pay increase: we fight on -- The Guardian

By Jana Kasperkevic
April 2, 2015

...Even after Walmart's new wage of at least \$9 an hour is implemented this month, its employees will qualify for public assistance programs like childcare, food stamps and housing assistance, analysis from **Americans for Tax Fairness** revealed...

Report: Wal-Mart's Wage Hike Insufficient to Keep Workers Off the Dole -- Newsmax

By Dan Weil
April 2, 2015

Wal-Mart created a big stir with its recent decision to raise wages to at least \$9 an hour for all its workers, but that's not enough to keep many of its employees off public assistance, according to a new study from **Americans for Tax Fairness**...

Blog: Two New Reports Detail How Walmart Keeps Profits High, Wages Down -- AFL-CIO

By Kenneth Quinnell
April 2, 2015

A new report from the AFL-CIO finds Walmart is seeking to cut its costs for higher-paid, U.S. high-tech workers by recruiting temporary foreign tech workers at lower wages. Meanwhile a new study from **Americans for Tax Fairness** finds that Walmart's promised raise for its lowest-paid employees to \$9 per hour in 2015 and \$10 per hour in 2016 will still require large taxpayer subsidies to compensate for the lowness of Walmart's wages...

...The study, from **Americans for Tax Fairness** finds that the \$9 per hour standard would still mean that most of those low-wage workers, even working at Walmart's full-time standard of 34 hours a week, would bring home less than \$16,000 a year. Such a low rate would qualify a single worker for at least three government assistance programs. If the worker has one or more children, they would qualify for eight programs...

Following the crowd, McDonald's pledges to raise wages -- The Washington Post

By Lydia DePillis
April 1, 2015

...It's true that a dollar raise tends to be too small to make meaningful economic differences in workers' lives. An analysis by **Americans for Tax Fairness** found that Walmart's raise would be insufficient to move most of its employees off public assistance programs like food stamps; the same is likely true of McDonalds' move...

Seattle's Wage Hike Reminds Us a \$9 Minimum Wage Isn't Enough -- The Huffington Post

By Ben Walsh
April 1, 2015

...Unfortunately, for many families, \$9 or \$10 an hour is still not enough to climb out of poverty or get off government assistance programs, noted a report released Wednesday by the advocacy group **Americans for Tax Fairness**...

...The **ATF** report singled out Walmart's wages for criticism. The same critique would also apply to any other company paying a minimum of \$9 or \$10 an hour. Still, Walmart's sheer size means its pay policies have a big impact. The company has 2.2 million employees, and an estimated 500,000 will be affected by its pay raise. For comparison, the city of Seattle has 650,000 residents. About 38,000 workers in Seattle will see their wages rise due to the new \$11 minimum wage. Just over 100,000 will be affected once the \$15 wage is fully phased in.

At \$9 an hour, a worker might make \$15,912 a year, **ATF** calculated. At that income, a single worker would qualify for Medicaid, housing aid, and heat assistance. With one or more children and a single income, such a worker would qualify for those programs, along with food stamps, the Earned Income Tax Credit, child care credits, and the national school breakfast and lunch programs, the report said. At \$10 an hour, an employee's annual income rises to \$17,680, but a single-income, two-person household would still qualify for all eight of those aid programs.

The **ATF** report also noted that, because almost half of Walmart's employees quit each year, many workers will continue to earn \$9 an hour when the \$10 wage goes into effect in 2016. (To qualify for \$10 an hour, workers have to complete a six-month training period.)

ATF recommended Walmart raise its wages to \$15 an hour, which "would lift many of its workers above the income level at which they would be eligible" for anti-poverty programs.

Walmart Gave Workers a Raise—But It's Not Enough To Keep Them Off the Dole -- *Mother Jones*

By Josh Harkinson

April 1, 2015

A typical Walmart Supercenter costs taxpayers more than \$900,000 a year in public assistance doled out to its low-wage workers. This fact, published in a federal study in 2013, galvanized labor protests at Walmart stores across the country last year, leading the retail giant to announce in February that would give some 500,000 workers a raise. And that's something. But according to a report released today by **Americans for Tax Fairness**, Walmart's pay is still too far low to wean many "associates" from federal subsidies such as food stamps and Section 8 housing...

...The four Walton heirs, who are collectively worth \$144.7 billion, are Walmart's largest stockholders and constitute the nation's wealthiest family. If they wanted to stop enriching themselves at the expense of taxpayers, they could pay their workers at least \$15 an hour for a 40-hour workweek. According to **Americans for Tax Fairness**, this would have cost Walmart about \$10.8 billion in 2014, or about half of the increase in the Waltons' net worth that year.

Walmart's Higher Wages Still Not High Enough -- *Gawker*

By Hamilton Nolan

April 1, 2015

Earlier this year, Walmart announced that it will soon be raising the wages of its employees, so that new workers will be making \$10 an hour by next year. This was the company's response to years of pressure from the labor movement. And how does Walmart's shiny new commitment to higher wages stack up on the "keeping employees off of welfare" front? Not terribly well, when you look at the big picture.

...A new report out today from **Americans for Tax Fairness** analyzes Walmart's new wage paradigm, and the following three bullet points neatly sum up the company's place in the ethical hierarchy...

Blog: Even With Wage Increase, Walmart Workers Will Still Need Public Assistance -- Think Progress

By Bryce Covert
April 1, 2015

...Jones is likely not the only Walmart employee who will still need help from government programs after the wage increase. In a report released on Wednesday, **Americans for Tax Fairness** said that at \$9 an hour working a full-time schedule of 34 hours a week, employees will still make just \$15,912 a year, qualifying a single worker for three public assistance programs and a parent for eight. Even once wages get to \$10 an hour, full-time employees will pull in \$17,680 a year, qualifying a parent or family of two for eight programs...

Blog: Walmart raised its pay. But it's still so low workers qualify for government aid -- The Daily Kos

By Laura Clawson
April 1, 2015

Walmart's low wages have been costing taxpayers a lot of money— around \$900,000 a year for a single Supercenter—as workers are paid so little they're forced to rely on government assistance. But now Walmart is giving 500,000 of its workers a raise, so problem solved, right? Not so fast. A new report from **Americans for Tax Fairness** shows that many Walmart workers will continue to be paid so little that they're eligible for programs like food assistance, Medicaid, home energy assistance, and more...

Blog: Walmart's Wage Hike Still Puts Taxpayers on the Hook -- RH Reality Check

By Emily Crockett
April 1, 2015

...Walmart will raise its minimum wage to \$9 an hour starting this month, and \$10 starting in 2016 for workers who have passed a six-month training period.

Even these wages will still force many workers to rely on government programs like Medicaid and food stamps to get by, according to an analysis from **Americans for Tax Fairness**.

Americans for Tax Fairness noted that the Walton heirs' personal fortune increased by more than \$20 million from March 2014 to March 2015, and that just half of that amount could give all of Walmart's workers a raise of \$5 per hour...

SYNDICATED OP-EDS

Op-Ed: Walmart's Small Wage Increase Not Enough for Employees, Taxpayers -- *The Huffington Post*

By Frank Clemente

April 7, 2015

Syndicated by American Forum

You don't need a Walmart front-door greeter to find the flaw in the company's recently announced boost in worker wages: it's not enough. Not enough to pull its lowest-paid workers out of poverty, and therefore not enough to get American taxpayers off the hook for subsidizing the giant retailer's low-wage payroll.

That's right: Walmart, the world's biggest company, with billions of dollars in profits, relies on you and me to make up the difference between what it pays a large portion of its workforce and what those employees actually need to survive. It's only through public programs like food stamps, Medicaid and the earned income tax credit that hundreds of thousands of Walmart workers are able to make ends meet.

After years of public pressure, Walmart finally decided to grant a modest raise to employees at the bottom of its wage scale. Beginning this month, no worker will earn less than \$9 an hour. By 2016 all workers who have passed a six-month training period will be paid at least \$10 an hour.

This move garnered Walmart some positive headlines. But will these modest wage increases actually lift Walmart workers out of poverty and relieve American taxpayers of our unfair obligation to subsidize the company's payroll?

We know from our [comprehensive 2014 report](#) that Walmart benefits from \$6.2 billion a year in public subsidies that support its employees: food stamps, Medicaid, child care support and five other taxpayer-funded programs. Besides keeping families healthy, some of these programs provide crucial incentives to keep people working despite the low pay.

Americans for Tax Fairness has analyzed the effect of Walmart's new wage policy and found that even after the planned pay hikes are fully implemented, [large taxpayer subsidies will still be required to make up for the company's low wages.](#)

Here's how the numbers break down. An employee working 34 hours a week (Walmart's definition of "full-time") for \$9 an hour would take home about \$16,000 a year. If that worker was single, she would qualify for three out of five public programs. With children, the employee would qualify for all eight of the public programs--and the same is true at the \$10 an hour rate.

The reality is Walmart would need to raise its base pay to at least \$15 an hour to properly compensate its workers and relieve America's taxpayers from picking up part of its payroll tab. Can Walmart afford it? Consider that the Walton family, descendants of the firm's founder who own over half the company, saw their fortune increase by \$21 billion last year alone. For about half that amount - \$10.8 billion - the Waltons could give every one of Walmart's 1.3 million U.S. employees a \$5 an hour raise and still keep \$10 billion for themselves.

It's also worth noting that using public programs to subsidize its low wages isn't the only way Walmart rips off the American taxpayer. Walmart [avoids \\$1 billion a year in taxes](#) by exploiting federal tax loopholes--leaving the rest of us to pay more in taxes, make do with fewer services, or see our public debt rise.

With Tax Day around the corner, working Americans are getting ready to pay their fair share. Those tax dollars should be used to educate our kids, fix our roads, help keep our communities safe and provide some peace of mind in retirement. They shouldn't be going to subsidize the low-wage strategy of Walmart.

Walmart should take the responsible step of increasing its workers' pay to at least \$15 an hour. It's the right thing to do for its workers, and it's the fair thing to do for the American taxpayer.

Op-Ed: Walmart's small wage increase not enough for employees, taxpayers -- *The Atlanta Inquirer (GA)*

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 25, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's small wage increase not enough for employees, taxpayers -- The Newton Daily News (IA)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 23, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's small wage increase not enough -- The Bradford Journal Opinion (VT)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 22, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Small increase not enough -- The Illinois Times (IL)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 16, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Despite hike, taxpayers required -- The Tideland News (NC)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 15, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's small wage increase not enough -- The Grant County Herald (MN)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 15, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Small increase not enough -- The Sun Advocate (UT)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 14, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Wal-Mart's small wage increase not enough for employees, taxpayers -- The Cap Times: Madison (WI)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 12, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Wal-Mart's small wage increase not enough for employees, taxpayers -- The Phoenix Reporter & Item (AZ)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 10, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Says Walmart can afford to provide employees a \$15-an-hour wage -- The Southwest News-Herald (IL)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 10, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's small pay hike not enough for workers or taxpayers -- Bucks County Courier Times (PA)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 10, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's critics say minimum wage increase not enough to help taxpayers -- The Mountain View Telegraph (NM)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 9, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's critics say minimum wage increase not enough to help taxpayers -- The Salinas Californian (CA)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 8, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's critics say minimum wage increase not enough to help taxpayers -- The Mountain Mail (CO)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 8, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's small minimum wage increase not enough to help employees, taxpayers -- The Albion New Era (IN)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 8, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's critics say minimum wage increase not enough to help taxpayers -- KPC News (IN)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 8, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's small wage increase not enough -- The Floyd County Times (KY)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 8, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's small wage increase -- The Harlan Daily (KY)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 8, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's small wage increase -- The Middlesboro Daily News (KY)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 8, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's critics say minimum wage increase not enough to help taxpayers -- The New Bedford Standard-Times (MA)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 8, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's small wage increase not enough for employees, taxpayers -- The Taunton Daily Gazette (MA)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 8, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's critics say minimum wage increase not enough to help taxpayers -- The Winona Daily News (MN)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 8, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's small minimum wage increase not enough to help employees, taxpayers -- The Brooklyn Daily Eagle (NY)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 8, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's critics say minimum wage increase not enough to help taxpayers -- The Lockport Union-Sun & Journal (NY)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 8, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's small wage increase not enough for employees, taxpayers -- The Middletown Press & Journal (PA)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 8, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's small wage increase not enough -- The Ridgway Record (PA)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 8, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Raise pay to \$15 at county Walmarts -- The Myrtle Beach Sun News (SC)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 8, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's small wage increase -- The Claiborne Progress (TN)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**

April 8, 2015

Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's critics say minimum wage increase not enough to help taxpayers -- The Fort Stockton Pioneer (TX)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**

April 8, 2015

Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's critics say minimum wage increase not enough to help taxpayers -- The Humble Observer (TX)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**

April 8, 2015

Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's critics say minimum wage increase not enough to help taxpayers -- The Potpourri: Magnolia Edition (TX)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**

April 8, 2015

Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's wage hike not nearly enough -- The Mecklenburg Sun (VA)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**

April 8, 2015

Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's critics say minimum wage increase not enough to help taxpayers -- The Wicked Local: North Attleborough (MA)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 7, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's critics say minimum wage increase not enough to help taxpayers -- The Wicked Local: Rehoboth (MA)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 7, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's wage increase not enough -- The Laconia Citizen (NH)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 7, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's wage increase not enough for employees or taxpayers -- The Kent County Daily Times (RI)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 7, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's critics say minimum wage increase not enough to help taxpayers -- The North Dallas Gazette (TX)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 7, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's small wage increase not enough for employees, taxpayers -- Your Houston News: Atascocita Observer (TX)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 7, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's small wage increase not enough for employees, taxpayers -- The Augusta Free Press (VA)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 7, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's small wage increase not enough for employees, taxpayers -- The Newport Daily Express (VT)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 7, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's small wage increase not enough for employees, taxpayers -- Deer Park Broadcaster (TX)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 6, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's small minimum wage increase not enough to help employees, taxpayers -- The Potpourri: Tomball Edition (TX)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**
April 6, 2015
Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's small wage increase not enough for employees, taxpayers -- Your Houston News: Spring Observer (TX)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**

April 6, 2015

Syndicated by American Forum

Op-Ed: Walmart's small wage increase not enough for employees, taxpayers -- Your Houston News: Friendswood Journal(TX)

By Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**

April 6, 2015

Syndicated by American Forum
