

Minimum wage hike could lift millions from poverty

By Morgan Whitaker, MSNBC

Raising the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour could help to lift nearly 5 million Americans out of poverty, according to a study released last week.

University of Massachusetts-Amherst economist Arindrajit Dube found that proposals to raise the minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$10.10 would reduce the number of non-elderly living in poverty by about 4.6 million in the short term, and that nearly 7 million would be lifted from poverty over the long term.

The study further finds that the poverty rate – which rose by 3.4 percent during the Great Recession, and has not significantly dropped – could be cut in half if Congress passed a \$10.10 minimum wage law. He estimates that an average family in the bottom 10 percent

of earners in the United States would see an extra of \$1,700 of income a year.

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