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Riyad, January 8, 2020 at 12:23PM. With his proposal to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, President Barack Obama has opened a new set of questions and may have made things worse for Hillary Clinton as she seeks to appeal to states where the minimum wage has been stuck at the federal level for decades. In a November debate in Washington, Mr. Obama left little doubt that he wanted to raise the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$9. But with his proposal to adopt a \$15 an hour national minimum wage, he has thrown the prospect for compromise out the window and made the most contentious minimum wage proposal of his career. Some of Ms. Clinton's backers fear the debate on the minimum wage could get in the way of her ability to build on her support in a number of states, like Florida, where a \$10 an hour minimum wage has been the law since 1989. Those states have embraced policies seen as typical of a Democratic agenda, like job training, job creation programs and access to health care. Ms. Clinton is focusing on identity politics, ensuring a gender-balanced group of surrogates for her campaign. Mr. Obama is focusing on economics, while both he and Ms. Clinton showered praise on the parents in West Virginia, whose son was gunned down for standing up to mine owners demanding better working conditions. But that is where their approaches diverge. Only one out of every two parents of teenagers is male, and black or Hispanic children are twice as likely to be born to single mothers. Hispanic women are 1.9 times more likely to be uninsured than white women, and the uninsured are less likely to attend prenatal checkups. But according to the Center for American Progress, the lowest percentage of employment-based child care is provided by large for-profit child care centers, like the ones in West Virginia.



