

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB5291, FOR A HIGHER MINIMUM WAGE
Committee of Labor and Public Employees Hearing
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Barbara Stasiak
Owner, Bridal Bells Boutique
114 Mill St, Berlin CT 06037
860-828-8462

To the Co-Chairs and members of the Labor Committee:

My name is Barbara Stasiak. I am a taxpayer, single mother, small business owner and a supporter of the bill to increase minimum wage. I have spoken out in support of this bill in the past and I will continue doing so until people get the point and pass it into law. I have said it before and I will continue to say that I challenge anyone, business owner or otherwise who opposes a minimum wage increase to try to live on \$8.25 an hour. Try it just for a week. Clean out your savings and checking account and live off one week's pay Friday through Friday and then tell me if you oppose the minimum wage. No borrowing, no bartering, just live on \$300.00 that you think is ok for others to provide for themselves and their families with. Try going to the grocery store or filling up your gas tank with that kind of money. Let's not forget to chop your \$300.00 in half to pay your mortgage or rent before you check is even cashed.

I'd love to see people take me up on this challenge. I'd love to see the people who say that a higher minimum wage would hurt business would really hold up when they're put in their neighbor and employee's shoes. Maybe some people will be able to survive a week – but what happens when one week turns to months and years even. What happens when you realize that you haven't saved a penny, but still have childcare to pay for, a car note, medical bills, a flat tire. These kind of things turn the world upside down for people who make more than minimum wage – so just imagine what it's like if you're making \$8.25.

As a business owner, I know just how hard my employees work so I pay them fairly. I know that there's always a new bill in the mailbox and my employees shouldn't haven't any less right to pay theirs as I do mine. We all know that raising the minimum wage is the right thing to do. So now all we have to do is do it.