



**Testimony
Robin Wilson
President & CEO
Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce
Before the
Labor Committee
February 28, 2012**

The Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce *opposes* **HB- 5291 AN ACT INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE, REMOVING THE MINIMUM WAGE TIP CREDIT, AND INCREASING PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO PAY THE MINIMUM WAGE.**

Increasing the minimum wage from \$8.25/hour to \$9/hour beginning 7/1/12 and \$9.75/hour beginning 7/1/13 and requiring the minimum wage to increase every year after that consistent with the Consumer Price Index will make it very difficult for industries to remain open. Many of the same industries that are shouldering the cost of the paid sick leave mandate would find themselves facing significant increases in wage costs. The bill also eliminates the tip credit that is relied upon by restaurants and other establishments whose employees benefit from customer tips.

Given the state's continued economic challenges and high level of unemployment, this is the wrong time to mandate large wage increases. Some of our businesses are barely hanging on in this economy and this bill would make it difficult for them to remain open.

We urge you to reject this bill.

The Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce serves more than 650 member companies from the North Haven and Wallingford area. We are the largest non-metropolitan chamber in the state.

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