



**Testimony
Robin Wilson
President & CEO
Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce
Before the
Labor Committee
January 31, 2013**

The Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce opposes SB-387 AN ACT INCREASING THE MINIMUM FAIR WAGE:

Increasing the minimum wage from \$8.25/hour to \$9/hour beginning 7/1/13 and \$9.75/hour beginning 7/1/14 and requiring the minimum wage to increase every year after that consistent with the Consumer Price Index will make it very difficult for many small businesses to remain open. Further more, the negative economic impact on already-struggling industries throughout the Wallingford/North Haven region will be felt at a time when all businesses and the state's fragile economy can least afford it. Many of the same industries that are still shouldering the cost of the recent paid sick leave mandate would find themselves facing significant increases in wage costs. The mandated increases will also greatly impact the tip credit and server wages that are applicable to 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.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

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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