

## **In support of SB 387-minimum wage**

My name is Jennifer Britton.

I am here to support an increase in the minimum wage.

As an immigrant, I came here with the hope of giving my children and future grandchildren a better life. As a mother and now grandmother I wonder if I will be able to do so.

I have been working for a retail establishment for the past 7 years. I currently make \$9.62 per hour with no benefits. I work really hard and I take pride in my work. As a store attendant I assist customers in the fitting room and around the store. I do inventory and merchandizing. It is back-breaking work. You are on your feet the whole time. Some of my co-workers and I, young and old are constantly in pain because of standing all the time.

Sometimes, when I see my paycheck I cry. I work so hard and at the end of the week I have nothing to show for it. It is a shame that after 7 years of hard work I only make \$9.62 per hour. I can barely take care of my basic needs.

I am not asking for much. I just want to receive a fair wage for an honest day's work. I hate to have to decide between putting food on the table and paying a bill. Everything else is increasing; food, utilities why not peoples' wages. My understanding of the minimum wage is that if it had kept pace with inflation my co-workers and I would be making at least \$10 per hour to start. That would make a huge difference in buying food, paying rent and paying our mortgages. I urge you to increase the minimum wage now because working people are hurting... I am hurting.

Jennifer Britton

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