

Members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee,

I am here today to testify in support of HB5069. This bill would help me and my family, along with thousands of workers just like me across the state.

I have worked at Dunkin Donuts for 8 years, but after all that time, I can barely afford to get by on the wages I'm paid. To give you a sense of the difficult decisions low wage workers must make every day, when my car was totaled not too long ago, I had to pay my rent late in order to fix the car. My family, including my sister, relies on that car to get to work and to appointments. No one should be put in these kinds of situations. If you work hard, you should be able to afford the basics.

I work hard to support my three children, but because of how little I make, they are all on state medical insurance. This is not right. Dunkin Donuts makes tens of millions of dollars in profits every year. The CEO makes nearly \$2 million a year. Yet they are not paying me enough to survive, even after years of service.

If you pass HB5069, companies like Dunkin Donuts would have to take a closer look at how their low pay is effecting workers like me. It would shine a light on the fact that we're forced to rely on government programs to survive. Maybe it will make them realize they should be more responsible in taking care of their employees.

I would also like to add my support for SB 32, which would raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour. I believe that fast food workers deserve to be making \$15 an hour, and I have gone out on strike to spread that message. Every raise in the minimum wage is a step towards workers being paid enough to live on.

Kevin Burgos