

Testimony of Walter Glomb on Raised H.B. No. 5279
AN ACT ELIMINATING THE MINIMUM FAIR WAGE EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN
CITIZENS OF CONNECTICUT.

Good afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Tercyak and members of the Labor Committee. My name is Walter Glomb. I am a resident of Rockville. I have three sons. My youngest, Nick, who is now 25 years old, lives with Down Syndrome. Nick receives Individual Supported Employment services from the Connecticut Department of Developmental Services under a Medicaid waiver. He is able to live and earn a competitive wage without full-time assistance however he does need some help with some vital activities.

My son would join us here today but he is working.

I am here today on behalf of my son and others who live with intellectual disabilities to speak IN FAVOR of H.B. No. 5279, AN ACT ELIMINATING THE MINIMUM FAIR WAGE EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN CITIZENS OF CONNECTICUT.

I favor this bill for two reasons: one moral and one pragmatic.

I hope the moral point is obvious. Excepting individuals with intellectual disabilities from minimum wage is clear discrimination based on an individual's disability. I ask that you not be swayed by the demagoguery from those who say that sub-minimum wages are the only way to keep these individuals employed. If that reasoning were accepted, then it could be applied to any group or to our entire population. Also, I am personally aware of private providers of supported employment services that pay minimum wage to all their working clients.

My pragmatic concern is that, under the current budget for the Department of Developmental Disabilities, individuals are being asked to do more for themselves. More than ever, they need an income to pay their living expenses. Thousands of individuals who live with intellectual disabilities and who are ostensibly eligible for residential services from DDS are being told that they must now be creative in finding housing. This creativity requires personal income. Depriving these individuals of a living wage by excepting them from the minimum wage is contrary to the states current policy of asking them to contribute more to their own costs of living.

Thank you for your attention.