

## Kess, Quinn

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**From:** Shaun Havanec <grim021684@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 15, 2014 2:41 PM  
**To:** LABTestimony  
**Subject:** Support SB32

I do support increasing the minimum wage, however \$10.10 an hour isn't enough. Several corporations will claim that by paying their workers a higher wage, it will cut into their profits. There's a few issues with this claim: First, without those workers, these corporations wouldn't have the backbone they need to push out the profits they make; second, many of these corporations are multi-billion dollar entities, and CAN AFFORD to pay their workers a living wage; and finally, an equal distribution of wealth allows everyone to prosper, be in good health, improve the economy, etc ad nauseum.

The fact that the current minimum wage for a family of four in the U.S. is set at appoximately \$23,000 is a disgusting travesty. A joke. Living on my own with a rent at \$795 per month in CT, which is one of the lower rents available for a pet owner, and making approximately \$20,000 per year at that time, I could barely afford my expenses. I haven't had health insurance since 2006, and have kept it that way thus far because I can't afford it. How is a family of 4 supposed to get by on \$23,000 per year?

Connecticut is one of the more expensive states in this country. Having a newly acquired Bachelor's degree hasn't helped me attain a job in this state, and currently working a job at \$9.25 per hour isn't helping me to exit a cycle of perpetual debt. As a body of individuals tasked with improving the commonwealth of this state, take the responsible action and increase the minimum wage beyond \$10.10 per hour. Do this, or risk having more individuals such as myself leaving this state for better opportunities as soon as the chance presents itself.

-Shaun Havanec

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