



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
GOVERNOR DANIEL P. MALLOY

**Testimony of Daniel P. Malloy,
Governor of the State of Connecticut
to the Joint Committee on Labor and Public Employees
on Governor's Bill SB 32 – An Act Concerning Working Families' Wages
February 18, 2012**

Good Afternoon, Senator Osten, Representative Tercyak, Senator Markley, Representative Smith, and the distinguished members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. I am proud to submit testimony in support of Governor's Bill *SB 32- An Act Concerning Working Families' Wages*. This legislation will support working families by raising Connecticut's minimum wage over the next three years to reach \$10.10 by 2017.

Over the past three years, we have made positive strides to right the economic course for Connecticut's businesses and its workers. Part of tackling this critical economic challenge is to recognize that a good and decent wage is good for both workers and business.

Last year, the Connecticut General Assembly passed important legislation to increase the state's minimum wage in two stages- from \$8.25 to \$8.70 on January 1, 2014, followed by a second increase to \$9.00 that is currently scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2015.

The proposed legislation will continue to put hard working individuals and families first by mirroring efforts nationally to raise the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 here in Connecticut. Senate Bill 32 will slightly modify next year's increase to \$9.15 on January 1, 2015, a 45-cent increase to \$9.60 beginning January 1, 2016, followed by a 50-cent increase to \$10.10 effective January 1, 2017.

According to the Connecticut Department of Labor, out of Connecticut's workforce of 1.7 million people, an estimate of 70,000 to 90,000 workers earn the minimum wage. These workers are head of their households, parents, and playing a supportive role in their families.

This modest increase will be put money back into our economy, support working families and help residents make ends meet.

When it comes to the minimum wage, one thing is certain: raising the minimum wage will lead to a stronger economy sustained by productive workers and thriving businesses. This is our opportunity to lead the nation for the right reason- with the highest minimum wage -and let it be known that Connecticut values its workers by providing them with the dignity of a decent wage.

Thank you and I look forward to working with the Labor and Public Employees Committee and the Connecticut General Assembly to move this important proposal supporting Connecticut working families forward.