

Testimony in Support of SB 391:

An Act Concerning the Recoupment of State Costs Attributable to Low Wage Employers

Good afternoon. My name is Destiny Rodriguez and I am a McDonald's worker here in Hartford. I have been working in the fast food industry for the past four, almost five years.

I come from a McDonald's family. My mother worked as a McDonald's manager for ten years before becoming a home care worker, barely making enough to pay the rent and other basic needs. And my 18 year old brother until recently worked at the McDonald's on Weston Avenue making [amount] an hour.

I am twenty years old, still living at home because making \$10.50 an hour I cannot afford to move out and get a place of my own. Saving up to eventually get a place of my own is not even an option.

With me and my mother's check combined we are barely able to pay all of the bills and still put food on the table. Each week the majority of my paycheck goes to helping my mom pay the bills and take care of my brother in order to keep our family afloat.

Too many underpaid families, like mine, are left unable to survive without the help of publicly funded assistance. Some of Connecticut's largest and highly profitable corporations continue to get richer while the taxpayers are left to foot the bill. This shouldn't be.

It's time to hold these employers accountable and the Low Wage Employer Fee is the right start. This bill will ensure that companies like McDonald's are no longer able to get away with paying poverty wages while working families pick up the tab.