



Court of Common Council

CITY OF HARTFORD
550 MAIN STREET
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06103

OFFICE OF COUNCILWOMAN WILDALIZ BERMUDEZ

Hartford, March 8, 2016

Members of the Human Services Committee
State Legislature
Connecticut

Honorable Legislators:

I want to express my support to SB 391 “An act concerning the recoupment of state costs attributable to low wage employers”. As a resident and Council Member of our Capital city, I’ve seen our residents having to struggle between important economic decisions that will impact their families forever, just because they cannot afford to live without government’s assistance. Hartford has a large number of retail stores and chain restaurants that employ our residents but don’t offer a living wage, affecting their ability to purchase goods and services

Our City has limited resources to provide better education for our residents, which forces them to apply for lower-paying jobs just to get some income for them and their families. What I see in Hartford at McDonalds, Wal-Mart or Dunkin Donuts are not teenagers earning pocket money; I see adults –mostly women- who have to work full time to provide for their kids, who not only have to rely on government-sponsored programs to get child care, but also need to apply to other government-sponsored programs to get medical insurance and nutritional aid.

If these public assistance programs can be subsidized by the employers who refuse to increase the minimum wage for their workers, the state will save a lot of money by having them fund these necessary programs for our families. I believe that these franchises can afford it and by making the franchise pay for it, we will not be affecting the residents that operate the locations in our state; I believe that these corporations will not move out of state because of the amount of money that they make here because their customers live here.

As someone who also has to make difficult decisions and to face challenges at the local government level, I encourage you to make the lives of our constituents a little bit better by making the burden less heavy to carry. Please support and vote in favor of this bill.

Respectfully,

Wildaliz Bermudez
Minority Leader
Hartford City Council