



**Connecticut Conference
United Church of Christ**

125 Sherman Street
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**Testimony in Support of House Bill 5370:
An Act Increasing the Minimum Fair Wage
Submitted by Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate
Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ
March 3, 2016**

Senator Gomes, Representative Tercyak, and distinguished members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee:

I am Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate for the Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ, and I am writing today in support of House Bill 5370: An Act Increasing the Minimum Fair Wage which would raise the minimum wage incrementally to fifteen dollars per hour.

I am writing on behalf of the 235 congregations and more than 67,500 people in our state's churches. In fact, the United Church of Christ (UCC) is the largest Protestant denomination in Connecticut. Nationally, the UCC has more than 5,700 congregations with nearly 1 million members. The Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ is in support of Economic Justice for all and increasing the minimum wage helps foster Economic Justice.

The Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ works to make the world a place where all people may live in the fullness of life. But still today, poverty stunts lives. Rising economic inequality inhibits opportunity and creates insecurity.¹

In Connecticut today, many full-time minimum wage workers earn wages which do not exceed the federal poverty standard. No one should be working full-time and living in poverty. Raising the minimum wage will be beneficial for families and for the state's economy. Workers with a little extra income spend their money in their local communities, improving the overall economic outlook. The majority of minimum wage workers are adults, and in Connecticut families, they earn an average of 35% of their family's income.² The Alliance for a Just Society has calculated that it would take over 80 hours to earn a living income at minimum wage.³ Everyone who works should be able to afford their basic needs.

All of God's children deserve to earn a living wage so that they can support their families. The Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ therefore urges the Labor and Public Employees Committee to support House Bill 5370, which would raise the minimum wage incrementally to fifteen dollars per hour.

Thank you for your work and the opportunity to supply written testimony in support of House Bill 5370.

Blessings,
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¹ United Church of Christ Economic Justice Movement

² "The Minimum Wage and Connecticut's Working Families," the office of US Senator Chris Murphy, 2014

³ Allianceforajustsociety.org



God is still speaking,

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