

## Anderson, Bryan

---

**From:** ROBERT ANDREWS <rtandrews1@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 06, 2019 9:11 PM  
**To:** LABTestimony  
**Subject:** S.B. No. 2, H.B. No. 5004, H.B. No. 7191, H.B. No. 7224

Senator Kushner, Representative Porter and honored members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee.

My name is Robert Andrews. I live at 71B Mott Lane in East Haddam, CT. I write in support of SB 2, HB 5004, HB 7191 and HB 7224.

I am 72 and after 30 years of U.S. government civil service, I have had to return to work due to unexpected family medical expenses. I was shocked to learn the extent of underemployment and the low wages in retail, commercial, and municipal employment. For a short while I worked in retail and found that many full-time workers needed public assistance or a second job and part-time workers received no or few benefits. I now work for a school system and find the situation for may on staff is only marginally better. For all those workers and for my family, a raise in the minimum wage, which will in time raise all wages, is a critical need and I urge your support for any bill which can accomplish this for our state. I believe a version of the bill now before the U.S. Congress will eventually pass, but Connecticut can lead and perhaps make the federal action more likely. We should lead by example. Please make a favorable report on one of the subject minimum wage bills.

I work in the IT department of a school system where I spend considerable time with paraeducators. Their contributions to the education of thousands of student is impossible to overestimate. Unfortunately, they are not consistently or fairly compensated for their efforts. There is a lot of variation from system to system and even from school to school or position to position. H.B. No. 7224 would be a great start at creating a more professional atmosphere for these critical people.

Thank you for your work on behalf of our citizens.

Respectfully,

Robert T. Andrews