



**Luke A. Bronin**  
Mayor

March 7, 2019

Senator Kushner, Representative Porter, Senator Miner, Representative Polletta and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **S.B. 2**, An Act Increasing the Minimum Fair Wage, and its corresponding legislation, **H.B. 5004**, An Act Increasing the Minimum Fair Wage.

Five years ago, Connecticut became the first state in the country to enact legislation to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10. We should be proud of that. But now, fourteen other states have higher minimum wages, and California, New Jersey, New York, Illinois, and Massachusetts are on the way to having a \$15 minimum wage.<sup>12</sup>

Connecticut should move in that direction because raising the minimum wage will benefit hundreds of thousands of workers in our state, helping them support their families while boosting consumer spending. The legislation before you would gradually raise the minimum wage in our state to \$15 an hour by 2022, begin indexing the minimum wage to the Consumer Price Index in 2023, and eliminate the training wage.

Companies in Hartford, including major institutions like Aetna and Hartford HealthCare, have announced they are raising their own minimum wages to at least \$15 an hour. When Hartford HealthCare made their announcement this January, they said they expected the increase to help them retain and attract workers – in addition to the significant benefit to their employees and their families.

Given that the overwhelming majority of workers in Connecticut who earn below \$15 an hour are African American or Hispanic, Hartford residents would likely benefit significantly and disproportionately from this legislation.

Raising the minimum wage will make Connecticut a fairer place to live and work and I strongly urge this committee to pass legislation raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luke A. Bronin".

Luke A. Bronin  
Mayor

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<sup>1</sup> Economic Policy Institute, "Minimum Wage Tracker," [March 1, 2019](#).

<sup>2</sup> National Employment Law Project, "New Jersey Joins New York, Massachusetts, & California in Deal to Adopt \$15 Minimum Wage," [January 17, 2019](#).

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