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S.B. 2, AN ACT INCREASING THE MINIMUM FAIR WAGE
H.B. 5004, AN ACT INCREASING THE MINIMUM FAIR WAGE
H.B. 7191, AN ACT INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE
Labor and Public Employees Committee
February 14, 2019

Senator Kushner, Representative Porter and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

My name is John Cattelan and I am here today on behalf of the Connecticut Alliance of YMCAs. The Alliance represents 21 YMCAs across the state of Connecticut.

The Connecticut Alliance of YMCAs is not opposed to the implementation of an increase in the minimum wage but we do have some concerns with the current proposals.

We ask that you recognize the financial burden this could place on our non-profit organization. Connecticut's YMCAs currently serve 550,000 residents and provide over \$11 million in financial assistance to families every year.

We also wanted to share with members of the Committee the following information regarding the impact of minimum wage on Connecticut's YMCAs. Please understand that we employ almost 8,000 residents of Connecticut.

1. The financial impact on our Connecticut YMCAs in relation to a \$12 per hour minimum wage would be \$2.6 million.
2. The compression impact for our Connecticut YMCAs at \$12 per hour would be almost \$5 million.
3. The financial impact on our Connecticut YMCAs in relation to a \$15 per hour minimum wage would be \$4 million.
4. The compression impact for our Connecticut YMCAs at \$15 per hour would be \$4.5 million.

In addition, we would like to share with members of this Committee that during the past 17 years YMCA childcare centers have received one rate increase of three

percent for Care4Kids and School Readiness. During that same time, the minimum wage has increased by over 50% and inflation has risen by almost 50% as well.

Child care is already unaffordable and increasing the minimum wage will make the children care system significantly more expensive. We will have no other choice then to ask families to pay more for their childcare.

We are also concerned about the financial impact on our summer camps. Our YMCA camps receive anywhere \$120 to \$160 per child for a week of summer camp via the Care4Kids program. The cost of summer camp is twice that amount. It will no longer be financially viable for our summer camps to accept children enrolled in Care4Kids. Many of these children will no longer be able to experience the educational opportunities and enjoyment of summer camp.

Summer camp is one of the only available resources for working families with school age children. Once the school year ends, families are left with ten weeks to find quality consistent child care for their child. Families who cannot combine summer work vacations and childcare by family members have to make a choice that is undesirable and unacceptable.

We respectfully request that members of this Committee and the Connecticut General Assembly consider the following changes:

- Increase the minimum wage to \$12 per hour over a two year period and that beginning in 2022, the minimum wage becomes indexed to inflation until it reaches \$15 an hour. This is currently what is being done in upstate New York.
- Strengthen the training wage by increasing the number of hours an employee is eligible from 200 hundred hours to 600 hours and that those 600 hours must be continuous.

The Connecticut Alliance of YMCAs is willing to work with members of the Connecticut General Assembly on this legislation. However, as this proposal moves forward, we ask you consider the challenges many non-profit organizations such as ours continue to face in Connecticut.