

March 7, 2019

Ms Chair and members of the committee, my name is Ken Judson and I live in Durham, CT. I oppose HB 5004 Minimum Fair Wage in its current form because it places a huge financial burden on the working middle class parents with preschool children.

I know this as an owner of a preschool in Hamden, CT but this impacts every town in our state. Payroll represents 75% of a preschool's expenses. A \$15 per hour wage will force me to increase tuition by 25% since I can't cut hours or staff due the mandated staffing ratios. The average monthly rate for a full time child is \$1,000 per month which translates in to \$12,000 per year. That 25% tuition increase correlates into an additional \$3,000 per year post tax and roughly \$4,000 pre-tax dollars.

I have a divorce parent who makes \$45,000 per year therefore she is not eligible for Care 4 Kids program. Where is she going to find \$4,000 more per year? We also have a family with 3 children enrolled, twin infants and a 3 year old. How are they going to afford \$12,000 more a year for child care. This is the reality of a \$15 per hour minimum wage bill.

Since daycare is a necessity for a working parent or parents, this bill puts an unfair financial burden on the working middle class of this state and your district. Therefore I implore you to either vote against HB 5004 or amend the bill with either an expansion of Care 4 Kids program or provide a childcare CT state income tax credit to off-set the upcoming tuition increase that face our working parents. Please show the same compassion for working parents of preschool age children that you show for the working poor of Connecticut.

Sincerely, Ken Judson