

March 6, 2019

Dear members of the Labor Committee:

My name is Danielle Morfi and I am a North Haven, CT resident. I write you today to express my support for the following bills:

S.B. No. 2 AN ACT INCREASING THE MINIMUM FAIR WAGE  
H.B. No. 5004 AN ACT INCREASING THE MINIMUM  
H.B. No. 7191 AN ACT INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE

For years, residents have been asking the state of CT to increase the minimum wage. By doing this, we will elevate low wage workers and move them out of poverty and off the reliance of public assistance. CT residents desperately need an increase in the minimum wage so that they can provide for their families and build the economic security needed to move ahead. By enabling workers to earn more and keep up with the costs of living, they will be less likely to need state funded services such as food stamps and subsidized housing.

Furthermore, the cost of living continually increases in CT, with nearly unbearable costs for insurance thanks to the HSA models. Housing and college tuition are consistently rising. People working for minimum wage simply cannot make ends meet. Working 40 hours a week, or more, should be able to provide the bare minimum. At this moment, it does not. This will help our disgusting income disparity at the state level.

We must look at the success of other cities who have increased the minimum wage and reaped the benefits: Chicago, Washington, Oakland, San Francisco, San Jose and Seattle. These cities have NOT seen dips in employment. They have seen increases in employee retention.  
<http://irle.berkeley.edu/files/2018/09/The-New-Wave-of-Local-Minimum-Wage-Policies.pdf>

The pay equality compared to CEOs is damaging our economy. "Since 1978, and adjusted for inflation, American workers have seen an 11.2 percent increase in compensation. During that same period, CEO's have seen a 937 percent increase in earnings. That salary growth is even 70 percent faster than the rise in the stock market, according to the Economic Policy Institute." **We must do better for our residents.**

I urge you to once again put CT on the map as a competitive landscape for jobs and workers at all levels.

Thank you,  
Danielle Morfi  
North Haven, CT