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Testimony Of Philip Prata
Before the Labor and Public Employees Committee
March 7, 2019

Senator Kushner and Representative Porter and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee thank you for holding this hearing today. My name is Philip Prata and I am a State General Agent of American Income Life in Connecticut.

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

Both of these proposed legislation are long overdue. Connecticut's minimum wage has not increased since 2017. So despite increases in gas, food, clothing etc. these workers are earning less each year. Our company American Income Life/ National Labor Life (AIL/NILCO) serves working families all across this nation and we visit with nearly 22,000 families a week, and we see firsthand the impact even a modest increase can have in families' day to day lives. We also appreciate the committee's commitment to all workers by eliminating the "Learning Wage" language in statute.

American Income Life is a member of Business for a Fair Minimum Wage which is a national network of business owners and executives who believe a fair minimum wage makes good business sense.

Just last month in front of the Maryland legislature Alissa Barron-Menza, vice president of Business for a Fair Minimum Wage testified "Raising the minimum wage is smart policy. A rising minimum wage will boost sales as workers can afford to spend more money at local businesses. And nothing drives job creation more than consumer demand."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and I encourage the committee to support this legislation.

Thank you,



Philip Prata