

Executive Board

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Dominick Cieri
I.U.P.A.T District Council 11

Craig Metz
Operating Engineers # 478

Mike Hassett
Roofers #9

John Derosa
Elevator Constructors # 91

Executive Council

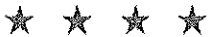
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David A. Roche
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Chairwoman Kushner, Chairwoman Porter, Ranking Member Miner, Ranking Member Poletta, and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee.

I am David Roche President of the Connecticut State Building and Construction Trades Council and Business Manager for the Sheet Metal Workers Local Union #40.

First I would like to say that we support SB 998 because we believe in good contracting apprenticeship & Safety standards on all work including Gas Pipeline work.

I am also here today in support of SB 2 and HB 5004, An Act Increasing the Minimum Fair Wage.

Raising the Minimum wage is simply the right thing to do, as a sheet metal worker we start new workers at \$18.41 in wages and an additional 22.38 in benefits which comes to about 40.79 total more than four times the current Minimum wage, now you may say that's because you're a skilled trade and you're creating Careers which may be true but the reality is that even at our base wage of 18.41 it is difficult to pay the bills.

These minimum wage jobs are no longer just for those college or High School kids trying to pick up a few bucks, they are the College kids trying to pay of those Hugh College tuitions, or the High School kid who has to work and pay for a car and insurance so he or she can get to work and school because their parents are working two jobs to make ends meet, and let's not forget who also works these jobs, the moms and dads trying to keep up with the bills or the Single Mom or Dad trying to provide and raise kids for a decent quality of life.

Today's minimum wage workers aren't being paid enough, and the truth is that they will struggle at \$15. 00 per hour, it should be closer to \$25.00 per hour.

I wish that we in the Building Trades could supply our enough Fair paying jobs for everyone, I'm sure My Brothers and Sisters of the Labor Movement wish they could supply enough Fair paying Jobs for all, but the truth is we can't, so we hope that you can do the right thing and pass this important legislation on behalf of all those High School Kids getting ready to enter the world of employment, on behalf of the College Students trying to pay that tuition and on behalf of all those moms and dads trying to survive.

Thank you for your time,

David A. Roche

President CT State Building and Construction Trades Council

Business Manager/FST S.M.A.R.T. Local #40