



State of Connecticut
House of Representatives

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March 7, 2019

Representative Robyn A. Porter, Chair
Senator Julie Kushner, Chair
Labor & Public Employees Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3800
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

IN SUPPORT OF HB 5004

Dear Members of the Committee on Labor and Public Employees of the Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Kim Rose and I am a Representative of Milford, Connecticut. I stand in support of **HB 5004 AN ACT INCREASING THE MINIMUM FAIR WAGE.**

Raising the minimum wage in Connecticut to \$15 an hour would drastically improve the lives of the people of Connecticut who earn minimum wage or close to. Since the 1960's, the minimum wage has been outpaced significantly by the rise of inflation. Although Connecticut's minimum wage is currently \$10.10, above the federal minimum wage of \$7.25, this has just served to bring our wages up to level at what is comparable to what workers were paid in 1968 when they were half as productive, and the country produced less than half as much per person, according to an issue brief in 2012 done by John Schmitt and Janelle Jones of the Center for Economic and Policy" (Dr. Jeannette Wicks-Lim's testimony 2017).

In fact, in 2015 The Alliance for a Just Society did a study on the livable wage in Connecticut and found that a single adult must make at least \$19.03 per hour to afford living in Connecticut without state funded assistance programs, a single parent with two kids must make \$41 an hour, while a couple with two children must make \$25.11 an hour to make ends meet.

An argument against raising the minimum wage is that these low paying jobs are meant for teenagers who are just entering the workforce. This argument holds no merit in face of research.

Of the approximately 336,00 workers who would benefit from increasing the minimum wage to \$15, 90% of those workers are aged 20 years or older and 60% are women.

I hope that this bill will come to pass and that we can provide a better quality of life for Connecticut's low wage workers. That we can help them get off of state funded assistance programs and get one step closer to helping them rise above the poverty line. I strongly urge this committee and the legislature to raise the minimum wage to \$15.

Thank you for your time.
Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim Rose".

Kim Rose
Serving Milford