



**Testimony of Dominique Torok Special Projects Manager
CT Intergenerational Alliance
Before the Labor & Public Employees Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
March 7th, 2019
In support of SB 2, HB 5004 and SB 764**

Senator Kushner, Representative Porter, and other esteemed members of the Labor & Public Employees Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today...

My name is Dominique Torok I am a graduate student at UCONN School of Social Work Majoring in community organizing. I am here representing Connecticut's newly formed Intergenerational Alliance. We are a collective of individuals young and aging who collaborate and advocate on critical issues impacting individuals of all ages in the state of Connecticut.

We are calling for your support of SB 2 and HB 5004 both titled An Act Increasing the Minimum Fair Wage in addition to SB 764, An Act Prohibiting On-Call Shift Scheduling.

Increasing the minimum wage to reflect inflation and support individuals in this state is common sense. We live in a state where we constantly discuss the budget, yet we are not currently not paying individuals wages that would allow for them to have their most basic needs met let alone assist in the stimulation of our economy. As the Connecticut AFL-CIO rightly observes: "Today, a full-time worker in Connecticut has to make at least \$24.47 an hour just to afford a modest two-bedroom apartment. At \$10.10 an hour, our state's minimum wage simply isn't enough to support a lone adult, let alone a family." Increasing the minimum wage to \$15 would provide individuals with the bare minimum of pay needed to provide for greater economic security.

We often hear people say that minimum wage workers are under 25 and are in jobs that are not categorized as "skilled labor" however we would argue that all labor is skilled and that the individuals who work in these jobs are the most relied upon in this state and in our nation. While many individuals under the age of 25 hold lower paying jobs, the reality is that the individuals who will be most impacted by a minimum wage increase are women, single parents, and primarily women of color. Increasing the minimum wage is a step in the right direction but it is not enough to ensure that Connecticut workers are compensated.

SB764 seeks to address an additional issue that working class individuals face every day. I would like to encourage you to think of a time when you or someone you love or care about was in a position where they relied on each one of their shifts to make ends meet. This is the reality for many working-class individuals in our state and when we permit employers to remove someone

from a shift with less than 24 hours' notice we are putting working families at risk. We ask working families in this state to sacrifice their time, their money, and their well-being.

Normalizing negligent employer practices are part of what drive young families away from our state. We need to provide CT working families with opportunities to be more financially dependent and economically secure. By limiting on-call scheduling practices and increasing the minimum wage we can change the narrative surrounding CT working families and we can demonstrate to other states how working families should be valued and respected.

Thank you for your consideration,
Dominique Torok
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