

Hello,

I am writing to submit testimony in support of the following state bills: HB 2004, HB 2008, HB 2009, and HB 2012.

As a single father and service industry professional I understand directly the impact of not earning a living wage. Daily /weekly sacrifices must be made to simply make ends meet. That is no way for anyone to have to live. The goal of our citizens should be to do more than survive, especially our children.

I currently earn salary, so this bill has no direct impact on my wages. My interest is in being sure that everyone has the ability to enjoy quality of life and feel that they are working towards a better end.

Large lobbying groups such as the Restaurant Association would argue that businesses can't handle the increase in wages. I can tell you from a management perspective that for the restaurant/service industry this is not the case. Labor is a cost of doing business and every restaurant I have worked for had the ability to make adjustments to hit their labor target. Wanting to figure out how to improve the lives of their employees, their greatest commodity, should be the priority. Unfortunately, this is usually not the case.

Thank you,  
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