

Chairs and members of the Senate Workforce and House Business and Labor Committees,

My name is Stacy, and I have worked as a Special Education assistant for 15 years. I work for the Woodburn School District and in my job I am working with the workers of tomorrow. Providing these students a quality education is very important to me.

I am a 10 month employee who gets 10 months of pay chopped up into 12 checks. This makes it very difficult to live, considering I am currently living paycheck to paycheck. Often I have to decide to pay my bills or buy food. Towards the end of the month I am lucky to get one good meal a day.

I do have three college degrees—an AA, and two BA's. One of my biggest debts is student loans I have accrued from trying to better my life. I pay \$230, about a quarter of my total paycheck, toward my student loans. Other commitments during the summer and my need to go back to school to work in the fall make it impossible to find employment—who will employ someone for only two months?

Having a \$15 minimum wage would help my coworkers be lifted out of poverty and increase my chances of having increased pay after working for 15 years at the school district. Please support SB 610 and HB 2009 to increase Oregon's minimum wage to \$15.

Thank you.

Stacy Yelton
Special Education Assistant
Woodburn School District