

Dear Senate Workforce and House Business and Labor Committees,

My name is Carina Felber and I live and work in the Bandon School District in beautiful Bandon-by-the-Sea. I am 42 years old and the widowed mother of a teenage daughter with intellectual disabilities and a son attending Southwest Oregon Community College.

I work at Ocean Crest Elementary as an instructional aide for students in the district special education (resource room) program. My hours are 8:15am to 3:15pm. I have been working at this job for a little over a year, and did some subbing previously.

After I drop off my daughter at Bandon High School, I arrive at work, usually no later than 8:00am. I use this time to quickly consult with my lead teacher and fellow aides, as it is one of our only collaboration times. During the course of the day, I shadow three different students with special needs, modifying their regular classroom work, and escorting them, with several others, to and from the resource room. I also direct a modified writing and spelling group for my three students, plus two others. I use my own funds to provide supplies for hygiene and snacks for my students. I keep diligent records and my team uses "check in, check out" tracking sheets throughout the day to give feedback to students and parents regarding the student's goals. My day ends at 3:15pm on paper, but I rarely leave school before 3:45pm. Again, consultation and discussion of the day's events occur with my lead teacher.

I love my work. It is what I was meant to do. My monthly paycheck is approximately \$980.00 take home pay.

My daughter and I rent a two bedroom, one bathroom apartment in Bandon. We share it with my disabled partner and his six year old daughter. And sometimes my son comes to visit and sleeps in the living room. Our rent is \$550.00 per month. Electricity, internet, credit card bills, and fuel quickly leave very little left for food. Often I have gone without, so that my children will have enough.

I dream of buying our own place. I dream of having more than one bathroom. I dream of providing my daughter with glorious opportunities to work and live well in her community. I dream of continuing my own education, and becoming a behavioral specialist. Yes, at 42, I want to do this! But how can I with nothing left over each month?

Please support SB 610 and HB 2009, the bills that increase the minimum wage to \$15 over 3 years. Please help me support my family in the best way I can, while I keep working hard at the job that I love.

Thank you so much for reading my letter and for all that you do. May we all move forward to a bright and positive future.

Carina Felber and family  
Bandon, OR