

Senate Workforce and House Business and Labor Committees
Testimony in Support of SB 610 and HB 2009
April 13, 2015

Senate Workforce and House Business and Labor Committee Members,

My name is Mariann Roldan. I am 38 years old with a Masters Degree in Early Intervention Special Education. I have been a teacher at Head Start of Lane County for five years. I make less than \$15 an hour, with my wages stuck without an increase in those 5 years.

During those five years at Head Start, I have helped low income families and children prepare for entering into the school districts in South Lane and Creswell area. I have provided families with local resources for income assistance, housing, and health care.

When I started working at Head Start I never thought that I would make less than I did when I first started, due to budget cuts. Now I have two children of my own. I have a three year old and a 9 month old. I am the sole provider for my family and I work pay check to pay check. And I too qualify for food stamps, WIC, OHP / Trillium and Head Start for my own child. I am excited that my child will receive the education that she will need before entering into the school districts. But I am sad that I, too, am in the same boat as the families that I work with. I need better pay.

Your of support SB 610 and HB 2009, raising the minimum wage to \$15 over 3 years would help me be more likely to have better pay in my future, and for my family to be able to eventually get off of government assistance. Raising the minimum wage provides money that we need for food, gas, recreation and hopefully be able to save money so that we can go on our *first* family vacation. Not only would I be able to do more for my family, I will be able to start paying back my student loans that have been haunting me and ruining my credit.

Thank for your time and giving me the opportunity to share my story with you.

Mariann Roldan