

Testimony on SB 610 and HB 2009

Senate Workforce and House Business and Labor Committee,

My name is Johnna Vanek and I live in Roseburg, Oregon and I work for the Roseburg School District. I'm an Instructional Assistant and I have been since September 2001. My husband and I have two kids and they are both attending college. Our daughter is a junior at Oregon State University and our son is a freshman at Northern Oklahoma Community College/Oklahoma State University. Making \$15 dollars an hour would help us support them without taking out expensive parent loans and they could cut back on our kids' student loans. It would also help pay some medical bills. Our son got really sick his first month of college and had to go to the emergency room twice, once by ambulance, which we are still paying for. I know other people that I have worked with had to go out and get two or three jobs so they and their families could make it, or leave this profession. But in doing this, our kids are losing out on the best instructional assistants. So just put yourselves in our shoes and could you help support a family on anything less than \$15? Don't you want the best for your kids and the kids of our future?

Thank you for your time.

Johnna M. Vanek
Roseburg