

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

My name is Patt Dolan. I work for the Lake Oswego School District as a Special Education Assistant and have been there for a year. I hold several degrees: B.Sc. in Health Sciences-Aging Services; AAS in Gerontology; AAS in Fitness Technology; a AGS in General Studies with an emphasis on business; and a minor in Gender, Sexuality, and Queer Studies. After getting my degrees, I found it difficult to find work in my field, but found rewarding work teaching children with special needs. Working with those most in need of advocacy is something I enjoy.

I work in a classroom with two other teachers. In our room, there are three children with learning disabilities. It takes a lot of time and dedication to do what educators do. As a classified school employee, I need to regularly educate myself, as do all educators, in order to keep up-to-date with best practices. Unfortunately, what we put into our jobs does not equate with remuneration we receive back.

It's also true that people don't understand how much teachers pay out of their own pockets for students' education. If teachers did not do this, students would be much worse off in terms of access to materials. I have talked to teachers who spend \$500.00+ on additional classroom materials every year.

In my home, I'm the second breadwinner. If I were the sole source of income for my family, we'd be living far below the poverty line—we simply could not do it on my \$13.35 per hour. I'm fortunate my husband has a good job. If it weren't for him, we would not be able to exist as we are now. I have two kids at home that we need to support. I would have to get at least two more jobs to survive if I were on my own. Some of my coworkers have struggled, needing to work two part-time jobs.

And as someone who understands the importance of saving for retirement, I'd like to point out that if people aren't paid a living wage at the in their work life, how are they going to afford, and how can they be expected to, save for their retirement?

I fully support the minimum wage bills SB 610 and HB 2009 to give people the ability to support their families with dignity, with a minimum wage job.

Patt Dolan
Lake Oswego School District