

Dear Jan Nordlund,

Thank you for hearing testimony on minimum wage.

As the owner of an in home care agency on the coast which employs 60 people, I often have care providers ask for less hours so that they are not dropped from their government assistance. They depend on:

Food stamps

Housing subsidies

Heating assistance

Day care

Educational subsidies

Health and dental benefits.

A raise in minimum wage may give the illusion of raising family income but in reality will decrease it when benefits are lost and prices for rentals, food and clothing rise.

At this time our agency is stretched to find enough quality care providers for our clients, but if our care providers cut their hours it will make it even more difficult to find enough help.

Additionally it will have the unintended consequence of raising our rates for care for seniors on limited incomes who need help to stay in their homes.

Thank you for listening,

Kathleen Schonau RN, BSW, Owner

Aging Wisely with Heartfelt Hands, Inc.

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