

## Testimony against SB1532

Chair Dembrow,

Members of the committee,

I write in opposition to SB1532. My first job paid 2.35 an hour, this may seem low, but this wage allowed a low skilled employee who was still in high school, to learn the very important basic job skills that allowed me to pursue higher wages in the future. These skills include the value of showing up on time, the value of hard work, the workings of a business, and an understanding of what skills are worth relative to other skills.

After 11 years in the U.S. Navy, including nuclear power school, nuclear field A school, and 9 years' experience as a nuclear reactor operator, I was able to secure a job as a field service engineer earning \$17 an hour. This wage is only \$2.50 more than the minimum wage this bill would establish. For a job with massive amounts of responsibility, on call coverage, and required travel and time away from family, why would anybody take this job if they could flip burgers for just \$2.50 less?

During the committee hearing I heard a lot of people talk about how hard it was to make ends meet on minimum wage. The true minimum wage is \$0. How much harder will it be for the people to make ends meet once they have lost their jobs, and are earning \$0, because this bill raises the bottom rung on the jobs ladder out of the reach of our young and inexperienced workers? How hard will it be to pay for daycare when these hundreds and thousands of people are out of work all together?

I ask that you defeat the bill. Better yet, amend it to repeal the minimum wage all together.

In Liberty,

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Tim Reeves

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