

1 February 2014
2300 Highgate Rd
St Albans, VT 05478

Dear Congressman Welsh:

As advised on your recent public radio interview, I am writing to propose my idea of a 'two tiered' minimum wage proposal at the State and Federal level. This would involve a higher minimum wage for those workers that held a High School Diploma or equivalent GED, and a lesser pay for those without secondary success. As a member of the Missisquoi Valley Union High School-Middle School Board of Directors, I am trying to establish a more obvious value for a completed education. I believe that the higher pay scale would give students a greater incentive to at least finish high school. Eventually I would hope that they would recognize the worth of further education and continue on.

My idea also takes into consideration that certain jobs would remain available to young men and women as they work toward their diploma (and save for college) because they could be hired at a lower wage. Another advantage to the two tiered system could be that a substantial increase would have a reduced impact on the economy, making it more palatable to the more fiscally conservative.

Implementation could be delayed a year or two, or even broken into steps to allow workers time to complete their diploma or GED.

When I presented my idea for discussion to fellow Board members, other educators and even to the general public, the vast majority supported it. I have not heard any valid reasons opposing it. Those few that were not supportive only argued that it "cost a lot"

My only fear would be that down the line, the pay schedule for those without diplomas would be neglected and fall to far behind..

Thank you for your attention to my letter. I would appreciate any input or thoughts that you might have.

Sincerely,

Gregg Gervais

cc: Governor Peter Shumlin
Senator Bernie Sanders
Senator Patrick Leahy