

I'm writing to express my support in increasing Vermont's minimum wage to \$15 per hour. As a recent college graduate, I struggle to balance my desire to engage in meaningful, interesting work while also supporting myself, making student debt payments, and covering the costs of living. And as a native Southern Vermonter, I can only imagine what stretching a paycheck like mine would be like for the folks who have the added cost of supporting a family, dealing with an emergency, or sending a child to college.

We cannot continue to allow nearly 60,000 Vermonters to live in poverty. Raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour will allow Vermont's most vulnerable to cover the basics, will put money back into the local economy, and improve the health of families and communities. It is no longer acceptable to allow members of our state to work full time and not be able to maintain an adequate standard of living. I urge Senators Campion and Sears to stand up for low income Vermonters in the 2018 legislative session and fight to raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour.

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