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We gather here to testify in support of raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour on the heels of the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination. The famous "I am a man" call for social justice was coined during a sanitation strike by black workers. They were asking for dignified pay and benefits. The labor movement exposes poverty wages and demand jobs become living wage jobs for union and nonunion workers. We support creating skill systems that enhance careers, developing policies strategies to ensure automation enhances human work and demand that the economic gains from automation are shared broadly. Employers benefit from workers. An employee ought to be able to afford the basic standards of living working fulltime. When a worker cannot support themselves or their family on a minimum wage there is something askew in economy. Today many parents work multiple jobs. There aren't enough hours in a day to support a family: feed them, put a roof over their head, afford healthcare, save for college, let alone retirement. Vermont needs workers. We hear there is a shortage of qualified workers, we also hear raising the wage will create a loss low wage jobs. Training the pool of Vermont workers is a viable solution. We strongly support raising the minimum wage to \$15