

Sayde Dorain
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My name is Sayde Dorain. I live in Essex Junction, Vermont. I am currently pursuing my undergraduate degree in Elementary Education and Psychology at Saint Michael's College in Colchester, Vermont. I believe that the state of Vermont should raise its' minimum wage to a livable minimum wage for the following reasons: people should not have to leave the state - or move to Chittenden County - from rural parts of Vermont to earn a livable minimum wage and many workers are currently working 2-3 jobs to make ends meet; this is untenable, and allows no time for family life or anything other than work.

Currently, I am a full-time student with a part-time job. I find it necessary to both work and continue my education at the same time, so that I can afford my college bills, someday soon purchase a car, and attempt to save money. With the hourly rate I am currently receiving at my part-time job, I am only making enough to pay part of my college bill. This summer, I plan to buy a car, in the hopes that this will help me with my goal of working two jobs. This summer I will be working full time as a "substitute" as the Early Learning Center in Colchester, Vermont. Even working 40 hours a week for about 15 weeks, I will barely be able to pay for next semester's bills. Currently I make a little over minimum wage. If the state were to increase the minimum wage, I would be able to buy a car, help my parents with any purchases they make for me, and I would be able to save money for my future.

Once I graduate from college and apply for a job, I will probably have to leave the state of Vermont because my starting pay will be quite low, compared to the cost of living. I need to find a career that will pay me a high enough wage that I will be able to pay my medical bills. When I was 9 years old, I was diagnosed with a life threatening medical condition. This has caused me to make many trips to the emergency room and have many doctors appointments. I'm afraid that if I stay in Vermont that I will not make enough money to pay for my medical bills and will not be able to continue my medical treatment. I believe that it is necessary to raise the minimum wage in the state of Vermont, so that people like me, with serious medical conditions that require treatment, can continue to live in this beautiful state.

My step-dad is applying for a new job. He is looking for a job out-of-state and if he gets this job, that means he will have to move and it will mean that my mom will be here with four children she has to take care of by herself. I plan to have two part-time jobs next school year to help my mom pay for my bills: school, medical, and other expenses. What the minimum wage is currently, even with two part-time jobs, I will not even be able to afford my school bills, let alone my other bills. I hope to be able to help my mom with further expenses, so that she does not have to stress about bills while taking care of my younger sister.

This bill would greatly impact me, my family, and many other residents of the state of Vermont. By increasing the minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2024, more people would stay in Vermont for longer periods of time, the cost of living would be more affordable, and people would have a more secure life. People would also be able to save more money, which would help make for a stress-free retirement. I would be greatly impacted by this bill because I would not have to work 2 jobs to pay for my expenses. I would be able to afford the necessary things in my life: a car, food, school, and medical expenses.

Once again, if this bill were to pass, residents of Vermont would not have to leave the state to earn a livable minimum wage. Also, people would not have to work 2-3 jobs to make

ends meet, which would allow families to spend more time together. Passing this bill will make the state of Vermont more attractive to people outside of the state and then more people will move to the state. This bill will have a positive impact on all residents of Vermont.