

Representative Anastasia Williams, Chair
House Committee on Labor

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Support for H-5130, Relating to Minimum Wage

Chairwoman Williams and members of the House Committee on Labor,

I, Zachary Taylor, proudly support bill H-5130.

As a substitute school teacher, I struggle to make ends meet. When I work a full day, from 8:30 AM-3:15 PM, my pay for that day is \$85 before taxes. That comes out to be about \$12.59 an hour. If I were to work 5 full days at the school, I'd take home about \$425 a week. This is not a livable wage. I love what I do. Yet, even while pursuing a career in education, I struggle to pay rent, pay back my graduate school loans, and even to purchase sufficient groceries. The current minimum wage in Rhode Island does not afford thousands of industrious, dedicated workers a livable and respectable wage. I should be able to afford my basic necessities in life beyond rent and groceries with the work I do.

Please consider raising the minimum wage immediately. This is a critical step in helping thousands of our fellow Rhode Islanders earn a decent, livable wage.

Thank you for considering thousands of my fellow Rhode Islanders and myself.

Zachary A. Taylor
East Greenwich, RI