



## Protecting Working Families And Job Growth

Here in New Haven, more families than ever are relying on low-wage and minimum wage jobs to make ends meet. That leaves them struggling to keep their homes, to feed their children and to find affordable healthcare. I'll be supporting a variety of bills this year to help protect working families and support job growth in Connecticut, but I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight one issue that has recently been in the press-Raising the Minimum Wage. I am co-sponsoring a bill to raise Connecticut's minimum wage over the next two years and to index future increases to the cost-of-living.

Quite simply, people who work full-time for a living should not be forced to subsist on below-poverty wages.

I look forward to hearing from you as I continue to fight to protect working families. Please contact me with any questions, ideas or concerns.

State Representative

**ROLAND LEMAR**

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# State Representative **ROLAND LEMAR**

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## **Protecting Working Families & Job Growth**

While most job losses in the recession hit higher wage sectors like construction, manufacturing and finance, much of the new job growth has been disproportionately concentrated in low-wage industries. Raising the minimum wage now is good for Connecticut workers and good for our economy. Doing so can stimulate the economy by increasing consumer spending, which in turn helps to create jobs at local businesses to meet increased demand.

Had the Federal Government indexed minimum wage to the cost of living since the program's inception, workers across the country would be paid a minimum of \$10.40 per hour. Instead, the last time the federal government raised the minimum wage was July 2009 from \$6.55 to \$7.25 per hour. We do better than that here in

Connecticut, and we should be proud of that fact, but we now need a smarter policy that rewards and protects working families today and into the future. Its time we raised the minimum wage to an appropriate level and tied future increases to the cost of living.

## **Did You Know?**

Currently in Connecticut, a minimum wage worker, making \$8.25 per hour, earns just \$17,160 working full time, 52 weeks a year – not nearly enough to support a single person, let alone children, with one of the nation's highest costs of living. In our area, a family of 4 requires \$64,837 to afford basic needs like housing, child care, health care, transportation and taxes.

