



LEADING
CHANGE
THROUGH
HEALTH



May 7, 2015

Councilman Curren D. Price Jr.
Chair, Economic Development Committee
City Hall Office
200 N. Spring Street, Room 420
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Council File 14-1371 and 14-1371-S2 – CITYWIDE MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

Dear Chairman Price and Members of the Economic Development Committee,

As a coalition of non-profit organizations located across the City of Los Angeles, we are writing to address the issue of non-profits and the minimum wage. We provide essential services to our communities and serve an important advocacy role. As the first responders in our communities to families' social and economic crises, often we are the ones stitching together the safety net. Our work is dedicated to interrupting the cycle of poverty by which our clients suffer. For many of them, this includes having to work multiple jobs to keep a roof over their family's head.

We support the minimum wage increase because so many of our families experience the negative consequences of chronic poverty such as poor health, food insecurity, and not achieving their life potential. The current state minimum wage of \$9/hour tops out at less than \$19,000 a year and is too low to support a single individual in the City of Los Angeles, let alone a working parent with multiple children. Even working two full-time jobs at \$9/hour provides families with less than the median income of \$40,000/year within the Los Angeles metropolitan region.

We believe that \$15.25/hour is something all of us will be able to adjust our annual budgets to accommodate and that people working in the service of others also deserve a quality wage. As such, we ask that the Los Angeles City Council move swiftly to demonstrate a commitment to the working families across Los Angeles and provide leadership by voting to approve the \$15.25/hour wage with enforcement and paid sick leave. Most importantly, we urge the Council to pass the wage increase because it will help end the cycle of poverty in our community and other communities in need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ivette Pineda".

Ivette Pineda
Executive Director
North Valley Caring Services

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Mangia".

Jim Mangia
President & CEO
St. John's Well Child &
Family Center

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aurea Montes-Rodriguez".

Aurea Montes-Rodriguez
Interim President & CEO
Community Coalition