

Joint Legislative Public Budget Hearing

Workforce Development

February 3, 2016

**Brittani Sadler, WNY**

My name is Brittani Sadler. I am 27-years-old and have been working as a dietary aid in a large senior facility in Western New York for two years. Helping to care for people is my passion. I love my job, but I also want to improve my own life. I am currently in school to become a pharmacy technician. But right now, as a dietary aide I make \$9.04 an hour.

I have two awesome children, a 10- year-old daughter and a 3-year-old son. That is why I am here in Albany to speak with you today. My family needs a \$15 minimum wage.

For me, it's simple math: my weekly take home pay is \$290. My rent is \$750, my gas is \$100, and on a budget plan, my electric bill is \$86 each month. I have to have my own transportation because I live 30 miles from work, so I pay car insurance, gas, and repairs. This leaves very little money to provide for my children. Even working full time, I need public assistance to make ends meet. I'm eligible for and receive housing and heating assistance and Medicaid.

Here's why I support raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour---I work hard and I want to get up out of the need for public assistance! I want my children to live in a nice area and get a good education. I want that freedom, and I am more than willing to work hard for it. Still, that seems like an impossible dream when all I can look forward to is perhaps a small wage increase on an already low base wage. Increasing the minimum wage to \$15 and hour would help us and would raise up so many families I know. It could turn dreams like mine into real possibilities.