

The CT Low Wage Employer Advisory Board Meeting

September 14, 2016 – 3:00 P.M.

The Legislative Office Building, Hartford

Public Hearing Room 1D

Minutes

Members present: Co-Chair Jamie Mills, Co-Chair James Bhandary-Alexander, Stanley McMillen, Merrill Gay, Paul Lavoie, Helene Figueroa, Susan Coleman, Merle Berkle-Schlessel Kurt Westby, Monica Morneau and Deborah Schwartz. **A quorum of members present was reached.**

Members absent: Eddie Stephens and Michael Seid (out of state on business)

Other Attendees: CT Department of Labor (DOL) staff Christopher Caruso.

Welcome and opening remarks: After opening remarks, Co-Chair Mills convened the Board meeting at 3:03 P.M. The meeting was televised by the Connecticut Television Network (CTN).

Review and approval of the August 10, 2016 Board Minutes:

Co-Chair Mills entertained a motion by Paul Lavoie to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2016 Board Meeting. There being no corrections, **the motion was seconded by Stanley McMillen and passed unanimously.**

Discussion by Board Members: After considerable discussion, the majority of the Board members expressed their support to raise Connecticut's Minimum Wage to \$15.00 per hour incrementally over the next few years and to automatically index the Minimum Wage to inflation.

Those Board Members expressing support were Co-Chair Mills, Co-Chair Bhandary-Alexander, Helene Figueroa, Deborah Schwartz, Merrill Gay, Stanley McMillen, Merle Berkle-Schlessel, Kurt Westby and Monica Morneau.

Those Board Members in opposition were Paul Lavoie and Susan Coleman.

Board Members Michael Seid and Eddie Stephens were not present at the meeting. Their opinions on whether or not to raise the Minimum Wage are posted on the Board's Webpage, under the title, "September 14th Board Meeting," testimony #1 and 3 respectively. Michael Seid opposed raising the Minimum Wage and Eddie Stephens supported it.

Co-Chairs Mills and Bhandary-Alexander queried the Board and the following was agreed:

- Deborah Schwartz, Stanley McMillen, Helene Figueroa and Merrill Gay volunteered to form a subcommittee to work on the Board's report which is due on December 1, 2016 to the Legislature and State agency Commissioners. The Subcommittee's draft will be presented to the full Board for review and action. There was also agreement that the views of those members opposing the increase in the Minimum Wage will be incorporated into the draft report.

Official swearing in of a new Board Member: Co-Chair Mills announced that she is leaving her durational position with the State and is being replaced on the Board by Jennifer Putetti. Ms. Putetti is a Governor's appointment and works at the State's Office of Policy and Management. After being sworn in by Co-Chairs Mills, she introduced herself to the Board. The Board welcomed Ms. Putetti and wished Co-Chair Mills well in her future endeavors.

Public Comment:

No member of the public addressed the Board.

Adjourn:

After Co-Chair Mills thanked the Board and those members of the public who were in attendance, a motion to adjourn was made by Paul Lavoie and seconded by Merle Berkle-Schlessel. **The motion passed unanimously and the Board adjourned at 4:50 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted
Christopher Caruso
Connecticut Department of Labor