

From: joe smith <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, January 23, 2019 12:08 PM
To: Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>
Cc:
Subject: HB 28

January 22, 2019

Rep. Geran Tarr
Juneau, Alaska

I write this letter in support of House Bill 28. If HB 28 becomes law, the minimum wage in Alaska will be \$15 an hour. No one should be too poor to live in Alaska, one of the richest states in America, a very rich country, but the current minimum wage in Alaska of \$9.89 an hour does not reflect the actual cost of living in Alaska. The working poor in Alaska should earn enough to pay the bills and have some hope of a better future: that cannot be done at \$9.89 an hour. I would guess that about 40,000 workers all across Alaska would have an increase in pay if the minimum wage were \$15 an hour: I believe about 17,000 of them live in Anchorage.

All across America the middle class has been shrinking and it is a struggle to pay the bills. The cost of living in Alaska is higher than most of America. Many people are just one pay check away from becoming homeless. An increase in the minimum wage will give low income workers the ability to save and have some hope for a better future.

Here in Anchorage all the utilities have gone up: water, sewer, electric and natural gas. Additionally, the national rate of inflation is around 2%. The cost of living keeps going up while wages have stagnated.

This a simple letter of support for HB 28, not an indepth analysis of inequality or the cost of living. However, most Alaskans would observe and agree that it is expensive to live in Alaska: it is not necessary to conduct extensive studies on this matter. Common sense should tell us that a worker should be able to afford the cost of living.

Sincerely,

Jed Whittaker
Anchorage Alaska
99514