

May 4, 2015

Honorable City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
200 N. Spring St., Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Council File 14-1371-S1, Citywide Minimum Wage Ordinance/Include Language Addressing Wage Theft AND Council File 14-1371-S2, Citywide Minimum Wage/City Administrative Officer/Chief Legislative Analyst/Economic Workforce Development Department/Procure an Economic Analysis

Honorable Councilmembers:

The undersigned California-based health professionals are submitting the following **Statement In Support of Fair and Decent Work Rules**:

No single factor is more important for healthy living than an adequate income and none more harmful to health than persistent poverty. As caregivers and professionals responsible for the health of Los Angeles residents, we call on the City Council to adopt viable and enforceable minimum wage and sick leave rules that give all workers a chance to live healthy lives.

Economic security is necessary for people to thrive, successfully manage stress, and prevent disease. We work on the front lines in hospitals, clinics, and community organizations, and every day we witness the human suffering caused by economic insecurity. We see firsthand how overwork, poor quality food, housing insecurity, and other consequences of low wages contribute to chronic diseases like high blood pressure, diabetes, and heart failure. Our medical skills and tools cannot help our patients meet these challenges. All who live, work and have businesses in Los Angeles are paying for the health impacts of poverty and deprivation.

Economic security requires guaranteeing that work is available, safe and pays a decent wage. Ensuring that families have a decent standard of living is one of the most powerful tools we have to protect and promote health. Earned sick time gives workers a chance to recover from illness or care for family members without the penalty of a smaller paycheck.

We applaud Los Angeles city leaders for considering an enforceable \$15 minimum wage and sick time protections for all workers. We urge the City Council to adopt these proposals, not only as a matter of fairness but also as an affordable and wise investment in the city's health.

(Affiliations provided for identification purposes only.)

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