

I'm sure many of the other testimonies will talk about how we need to raise the minimum wage. Some will probably correctly point out that if wages kept pace with productivity, minimum wage would be closer to \$30 than \$10. Others will probably note how some state agencies can only pay the minimum wage, and everyone, and I mean everyone agrees that is too little of a wage.

But I want to highlight the cost of living adjustment part. While I unsuccessfully campaigned for the State House this last year, a common refrain I heard from working people is that the cost of living increases from inflation where eating away at their spending power and subsequently any capability of doing anything other than subsiding. Adding a cost of living adjustment to the minimum wage is a direct response to this issue. Instead of squabbling over which exact dollar amount, and when and how frequently we should increase the minimum wage, this bill would create an automatic adjustment based on cost of living calculations. This will depoliticize the issue while delivering a modest but reliable win for the lowest waged laborers in our state.

This is a measured and fair proposal, and it is in the best interest of everyone in the state for it to be passed.

Will Thompson