

DISCLAIMER

Electronic versions of the exhibits in these minutes may not be complete.

This information is supplied as an informational service only and should not be relied upon as an official record.

Original exhibits are on file at the Legislative Counsel Bureau Research Library in Carson City.

Contact the Library at (775) 684-6827 or library@lcb.state.nv.us.

April 8, 2003

Chairman Goldwater and Members of the Committee,

My name is Heather Molina and I am from the University of Nevada, Reno School of Social Work.

I fully support all aspects of AB 356, the legislation that proposes an increase in the minimum wage by \$1.00 per hour.

Last semester my policy class was given a project to complete. The reasoning behind it was to discover how low-wage individuals and families make it or don't. We created a fictional family that consisted of a mother and her three children. I happened to be in the group that needed to find our fictional mother a job. This job would provide the income to find the family housing, childcare, access to health services, and cover all other miscellaneous expenses

We explored many ideas from being a cocktail waitress, to having an office job, to retail job opportunities at a department store. A decision was made to have our fictional mother work as a cocktail waitress, making \$6.01 an hour...86 cents over the minimum wage; plus tips. Based on interviews with other cocktail servers it estimated that she would make about \$30 in tips a day.

After taxes our fictional characters monthly net income was \$1808.04. She has \$1808.04 to provide housing, childcare, food, and medical services for her family. Her estimated monthly expenses were figured to be roughly \$1972.63. That is \$164.59 more than she makes in a month, not to mention that the budget that was created was the bare minimums, with no perks.

Imagine working two full time jobs to just make it every month. Imagine living paycheck to paycheck, not knowing if you'll have enough money to pay the power bill, or to even have food on the table for your children. An increase in the minimum wage can help these working individuals and families.

I strongly urge you to support AB 356.

Thank you for your time.

ASSEMBLY COMMERCE & LABOR
DATE: 4/09/03 ROOM: 4100 EXHIBIT K
SUBMITTED BY: Heather Molina