



PREVENTING VIOLENCE  
AND DEVELOPING  
YOUTH LEADERS

June 17, 2014

**RE: Oakland needs a Minimum Wage Increase**

Dear Honorable Mayor Quan and Members of the Oakland City Council:

As leaders from various non-profit organizations serving the diverse community of Oakland, we are writing to express our strong support for a minimum wage with dignity for all workers and working families in this city. As an organization working at the frontline of violence and other issues confronting Oakland residents, we often witness the many effects of cyclical poverty and understand the need for better economic development.

Oakland is quickly becoming one of the most expensive cities in the Bay Area. With growing income inequality and stagnant wages, everyday Oakland residents are falling behind when it comes to affording health care, rent, transportation, food, tuition, and other basic living expenses. One of the ways in which Oakland can take leadership on this issue is to raise the minimum wage for all workers. All workers need and deserve a fair raise regardless of the status of the employer they work for the type of service they provide. It would be an ironic and destructive precedent if non-profit workers, many of whom provide critical services to Oakland's most vulnerable populations, were excluded from any increase in the minimum wage, designed to lift the very people that they serve out of poverty and to raise their standards of living.

Currently, the qualification process for an historic citizen-initiated minimum wage measure in Oakland is underway. This initiative speaks for the will of over 33,000 voters in Oakland, who are seeking a vision where all workers and families can thrive in a vibrant economy because they can now afford to spend in it with dignity. In light of this, we respectfully urge Mayor Quan and Oakland's City Council not to complicate and under mind this democratic process by introducing a competing measure that has not been vetted by Oakland residents.

We are seeing the tremendous momentum to raise the minimum wage across the country, and most robustly here in the Bay Area. Now is the time to capitalize on this growing consensus and to ensure that Oakland residents have the opportunity to decide on a measure that is right and just for our town.

We thank you in advance for your leadership on this issue and for your commitment to the well-being of all hard-working people and families of Oakland.

Sincerely,

Executive Director

YOUTH ALIVE!  
3300 Elm Street  
Oakland, Ca 94609  
Tel: (510) 594-2588  
Fax: (510) 594-0667  
[mail@youthalive.org](mailto:mail@youthalive.org)  
[www.youthalive.org](http://www.youthalive.org)

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Executive Director  
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Oakland, CA