

## From the House

### Increase to Minimum Wage

By Rep. Matt Ritter

Minimum wage workers are moving closer to a living wage. The House and Senate approved [House Bill #5004](#) to increase the minimum wage incrementally over the next few years...to \$15 in 2023.

With high rents, food, childcare, utilities, transportation; it's impossible to work full time at the current minimum wage of \$10.10 and make ends meet. Increasing (incrementally) to \$15 will provide thousands of Hartford residents with a much needed raise.

No one who works full-time should have to live in poverty, but many of our state's full-time workers struggle to support themselves and their families because wages are too low and have not been increased from \$10.10 since 2017.

Sure, increasing the minimum wage would protect low-wage workers, but it will also help to strengthen economic security, increase purchasing power and would enhance the state's economy – more spending power by people earning minimum wage means more spending.

Here is the schedule...The minimum wage will increase, in a four-year rollout, to \$11.00 in 2019, \$12.00 in 2020, \$13.00 in 2021, \$14.00 in 2022 and \$15.00 in 2023.

Increasing the minimum wage was one of my top legislative priorities this session. I'm happy to check this issue off the list.

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