

From: [Jessica Cafferty](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Minimum Wage & Sick/Safe Leave
Date: Monday, March 28, 2016 12:38:17 PM

Dear Councilmembers,

Tonight the Council will discuss raising the minimum wage and adopting a sick and safe leave policy in Shoreline, and I hope you will support both.

As our region's population rapidly grows, the cost of living here has also increased exponentially - and for many families, the mounting costs of housing, child care and basic necessities no longer align with their wages. It is wrong that anyone should work full-time and still struggle to feed their families or make basic ends meet. Besides it being the right thing to do, there's also a strong business case for Shoreline to consider an increase to the minimum wage. I was surprised when I spoke to members of the business community last year and heard their support, as I'd expected them to oppose an increase. However, they understand that if we want to attract the best and brightest in our City, we need to be paying them competitive wages, especially with Seattle immediately to our south. It is not a feasible (or sustainable) business plan to stay in the black by paying your staff grossly under market value or the cost of living.

I encourage you to support sick and safe leave as well. This simple policy makes such a huge difference in workers' lives - particularly those who are most vulnerable. Parents can care for ill children, parents or themselves, workers can stay home when they are ill to prevent the spread of disease, and victims of domestic violence can keep themselves safe. I can understand no reason why a person in any of these scenarios should be worried to take the time they need for fear of losing their job or not being able to pay their bills.

My husband and I moved to Shoreline and started our family here because we admired the progressive values of the City. We appreciated a strong focus on funding education and protecting the environment, and loved the sense of social responsibility we found in our neighbors. A raise to the minimum wage and adoption of a sick and safe leave policy reflects those values, and as your neighbor and constituent, I urge you to support both without delay. Thank you for your dedication and hard work on behalf of all Shoreline residents (present and future!), and please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Best Regards,

Jessica Tollenaar Cafferty
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