



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DELAWARE

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TESTIMONY FROM

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DELAWARE

In Support of SB 15 / March 17, 2021

Increasing the minimum wage is consistent
with the League position on meeting basic needs.

We support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty
and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

Self-sufficiency cannot be achieved without adequate earnings.

Basic needs encompass such items as food, clothing, shelter and access to health care; and our support is based on a concern for all of these needs.

However, to focus specifically on the need for shelter, important information can be gleaned from a report of ***Housing Alliance Delaware*** entitled “**The State of Housing in the First State: 2019**,” It documents the relationship between the extreme need of many of our state’s citizens for shelter and the need for an increased minimum wage.

For example: the state’s renter wage, the hourly wage necessary to adequately afford a two-bedroom rental unit in Delaware, is \$21.97 per hour, as of the latest data available. The current minimum wage of \$9.25 makes decent housing unobtainable.

Reductions in poverty correlate historically with real increases in the minimum wage.

Declining upward mobility and growing economic inequality perpetuate harmful social conditions that undermine a civil society.

We urge speedy passage of SB 15.