

May 1, 2023

Human Services Conference Committee Members,

I Support phasing out subminimum wage for this main reason: It in a way downgrades the person. I don't care if it's a disability person or not and by the way we all have Disabilities so get over it. I think but I'm not sure that we can all agree that people with disabilities are people too, can't we? If we say yes, then we need to treat Disability people like everyone else in all aspect of life. We can say "OH, we support all our disability people in all other aspects of life, and we will help them but, in the work, setting we should treat them with pay differently" I want to ask why? I would love to talk about this with anyone.

I was paid this way at one time in my life and thinking about it. I was sort of ashamed of what I was making for a wage. I felt if I honest I was made to feel less than a person and no one should be made to feel that way ever! I know some of you talk about fairness and all. I have heard it all and I respect that and all. IF that is the case the person isn't in the right job. Let's work to get them the right job with pay that is the same as everyone else!

Kurt Rutzen  
Chaska, Minnesota