

**United Service
Workers West**



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June 29, 2015

Honorable Members of the City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
200 N. Spring Street, Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

ATTN: Richard Williams, Legislative Assistant
RE: Council File 14-1371 S5, Transitional Job Program Exemption

Honorable Members:

I write to you in support of Councilmember Gil Cedillo's amending motion, exempting transitional jobs programs from the minimum wage for a *maximum* of 18 months, if and when they are providing transitional work to the hard to employ members of our community.

Although I have been skeptical of any exemptions, as I feel that no workers deserve a subminimum wage. I have seen an outpouring of compelling testimony from program participants who feel that their jobs and the jobs of future participants could be in jeopardy. I respectfully disagree with those individuals, but feel that it is reasonable to extend some flexibility to this small group of organizations, as they mitigate the effects of a raise in the minimum wage.

Sincerely,

David Huerta, *President*

SEIU United Service Workers West