

BEND THE ARC
a jewish partnership
for justice
southern california

Honorable Curren Price, Jr.
Chair, Economic Development Committee
City of Los Angeles
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RECEIVED
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2015 APR - 2 PM 1:27
BY _____ M.V.
DEPUTY

RE: CF 14-1371-S2 - City Wide Minimum Wage Increase

Dear Chairman Price:

Thank you for the leadership you and the Economic Development Committee have demonstrated, taking on the issue of working poverty in our city.

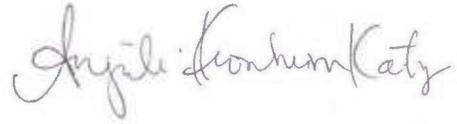
Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice is building the power and passion of the progressive Jewish movement in America by bringing together Jews from across the country to advocate and organize for a more just and equal society. We are the only national Jewish organization that is focused solely on promoting these values here in the U.S. The Bend the Arc family of organizations consists of ***Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice***, our 501(c)(3) organizing, education and leadership arm; ***Bend the Arc Jewish Action***, our 501(c)(4) advocacy arm; and ***Bend the Arc Jewish Action PAC***, a political action committee dedicated to supporting candidates who share our vision for a more just and equal society. Headquartered in New York City, we have offices in Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, and San Francisco, with chapters organizing nationwide.

Bend the Arc Southern California has recently endorsed the Raise LA Campaign, advocating for \$15/hr, paid sick days and wage theft enforcement. A key Jewish teaching is from Maimonides, who taught that the highest level of charity is to enable someone to have a job that allows for self-sufficiency. The policies proposed in the Raise LA campaign are on the critical pathway to LA workers' self-sufficiency. We believe strongly that no employee, whether they are a teen, in a transitional job program, a tipped worker or childcare worker should be exempted from the City's new minimum wage. Exempting these categories of workers and the organizations and businesses that employ them is counter to the spirit of the policy, which aims to address the issue of working poverty, revitalize the spending power of low-wage workers, and circulate more money through our local economy.

As a non-profit organization, we were formed to make improvements in our country and community. Working poverty and economic inequality are at the center of our work. It would be a disservice to our mission if we did not pay our employees the minimum wage. The difficulty of fund raising and delivering vital services cannot dictate our position on bringing all Angelinos out of poverty. We believe in practicing what we advocate.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our position. If you would like to discuss further, I am available at akronheimkatz@bendthearc.us or 484-213-4811.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anjali Kronheim Katz". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Anjali Kronheim Katz
Regional Organizer
Bend the Arc Southern California

CC: Councilmember Bob Blumenfield