**“A just government ought to require that employers pay a living wage.”**

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# Resolutional Analysis

“A just government ought to require that employers pay a living wage.”

This resolution asks debaters to examine the responsibilities of a just government. In particular, this resolution suggests that in order for a government to operate in accords with the dictates of justice, they should require businesses operating inside their country to pay a living wage. This topic has been pushed to the forefront of our political discussions recently because of the abuse of social services by major corporations, who require folks to work for them, without providing full time employment, and then pay poverty level wages that mean in order for their employees to survive they much take-out food stamps or other similar public services.

We spent a substantial amount of time researching and discussing this topic during camp labs and debating this topic at the camp tournament. I trust that students in attendance at the camp have a good starting point on this resolution, and are prepared to further explore this topic if it is chosen during the next academic session.

# Affirmative Case

I stand in Affirmation of the following resolution:

Resolved: A Just Government Ought to Require Employers to Pay a Living Wage

**Value:** Quality of Life: This is defined as having the ability or access to things that make your life worth living. This needs to be the paramount value in the round.

**Neeley, 1994** (Steven. 1994. Professor, Xavier University. THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO SUICIDE, THE QUALITY OF LIFE, AND THE "SLIPPERY-SLOPE. Akron Law Review. Accessed 8/13/10.)

It is good that men should feel a horror of taking human life, but in a rational judgment the quality of the life must be considered. The absolute interdiction of suicide and euthanasia involves the impossible assertion that every life, no matter what its quality or circumstances, is worth living and obligatory to be lived. This assertion of the value of mere existence, in the absence of all the activities that give meaning to life, and in the face of the disintegration of personality that so often follows from prolonged agony, will not stand scrutiny. On any rationally acceptable philosophy there is no ethical value in living any sort of life: the only life that is worth living is the good life.

**Criterion:** Reducing Social Ills: This is because in order to best achieve quality of life we need to reduce social ills, such as: Homelessness, starvation, crime, stereotyping, and discrimination. These are basic rights that must be met.

## Contention One: Living Wage Reduces Social Ills

#### A. Homelessness and Starvation Would be Corrected Through a Living Wage

("2013 World Hunger and Poverty Facts and Statistics." *Hunger Notes*. World Hunger Education Service, n.d. Web.)("World Food Programme Fighting Hunger Worldwide." Hunger Statistics. World Food Programme, n.d. Web.) (NUNEZ, R. and FOX, C. (1999), A Snapshot of Family Homelessness Across America. Political Science Quarterly, 114: 289–307. doi: 10.2307/2657740 (Heather, December 31, 2013)

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that nearly 870 million people of the 7.1 billion people in the world, or one in eight, were suffering from chronic undernourishment in 2010-2012. Almost all the hungry people, 852 million, live in developing countries, representing 15 percent of the population of developing counties. There are 16 million people undernourished in developed countries (FAO 2012).

Poor nutrition causes nearly half (45%) of deaths in children under five - 3.1 million children each year.

Today there are 400,000 homeless families in shelter, representing 1.1 million homeless children across America.

As humans we have an obligation to stop the deaths of other humans. 1.1 million homeless children is a crime, a crime that we, members of society, are responsible for and have the power to change. By the government requiring employers to pay a living wage, we are ensuring that citizens have the means necessary to provide for themselves and their families.

#### B. Living Wage Decreases Crime

(Ronald C. Kramer, professor of sociology and director of the Criminal Justice Program at Western Michigan University, Poverty, Inequality, and Youth Violence, July 13 2014 )

Sustainability is a human need that demands to be met. When the legal methods of obtaining food and shelter have been exhausted, citizens have no choice but to turn to criminal means.

The links between extreme deprivation, delinquency, and violence, then, are strong, consistent, and compelling. There is little question that growing up in extreme poverty exerts powerful pressures toward crime. The fact that those pressures are overcome by some individuals is testimony to human strength and resiliency, but does not diminish the importance of the link between social exclusion and violence.

The impacts of violence in a country are numerous. The intimate relationship between poverty and crime create a cycle of instability. A living wage must be required by the government in order to stop this perpetuating cycle.

#### C. Lower Crime Rate Decreases Stereotyping and Discrimination

**Krieger, 2000**(Linda Hamilton, Professor of Law at University of Berkley, California, The Regents of the University of California on behalf of Berkeley Journal of Employment and Labor Law, 21 Berkeley J. Emp. & Lab. L. 1,Foreword--Backlash Against the ADA: Interdisciplinary Perspectives and Implications for Social Justice Strategies)

(Ronald C. Kramer, professor of sociology and director of the Criminal Justice Program at Western Michigan University, Poverty, Inequality, and Youth Violence, July 13 2014 )

In Backlash, the Political Economy, and Structural Exclusion, Marta Russell argues that public hostility toward the ADA is driven in large measure by the high levels of job instability and worker displacement characterizing American labor markets. These, she contends, breed insecurity, fear, and resentment toward employment protections extended to members of disadvantaged groups. Russell suggests that hostility toward identity group-based employment protections will persist until employment at a living wage and access to health care are[is] treated as [a] fundamental rights attending membership in society, rather than as incidents of increasingly unstable employment status.

Finally, Currie notes the research of Krivo and Peterson (1996), who suggest that it is the link between extreme disadvantage and violence that underlies much of the association between race and violent crime in the United States. After reviewing these and other studies, Currie (1998) concludes, the links between extreme deprivation, delinquency, and violence, then, are strong, consistent, and compelling. There is little question that growing up in extreme poverty exerts powerful pressures toward crime. The fact that those pressures are overcome by some individuals is testimony to human strength and resiliency, but does not diminish the importance of the link between social exclusion and violence. The effects are compounded by the absence of public supports to buffer economic insecurity and deprivation, and they are even more potent when [\*126] racial subordination is added to the mix.

Stereotyping and discrimination leads to racism, sexism, ageism, and classism. Prejudices against groups of individuals leads to violence, divide, and instability. People need to be united and accepting of one another. Government required living wage will decrease the gap between demographics, and can, in the long term, decrease stereotyping and discrimination.

**LIVING WAGES BENEFIT A CERTAIN DEMOGRAPHIC**

**CHAPMAN AND THOMPSON, 2006**( Researching at Washington state budget and policy center, Assistant Research Professor at Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts Amherst, he Economic Policy Institute, The Economic Impact of Living Wages)

Brenner and Luce surveyed 97 low-wage workers employed in the industries most affected by Boston’s living wage policy.10 The survey of this group of covered workers reveals a generally similar profile as Los Angeles: Workers were predominantly adult, full-time workers, who were disproportionately people of color11. The average age of covered workers in Boston was 32, with 95% age 20 or older (Brenner and Luce 2005, 51-52). 40% of covered workers were African American, and 79% were female.

## Contention Two: A Just Government Must Require Employers to take Care of Their Employees

#### A. The Death of Welfare Capitalism Creates a Necessity for Government Enforced Living Wage to Regualte Capitalism

(Ditmar 2009 (Bob, Editorialist for the American Daily. "Capitalism Promotes Freedom and Opportunity." Opposing Viewpoints: American Values. Ed. David M. Haugen. Detroit: Greenhaven Press, 2009. Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center) BSH) (Ph.D., Obery M. Hendricks Jr. "The Uncompromising Anti-Capitalism of Martin Luther King Jr." The Huffington Post. TheHuffingtonPost.com, 20 Jan. 2014. Web. 14 July 2014.)(Gross (Daniel, Harvard University and Cornell University, Goodbye, Pension. Goodbye, Health Insurance. Goodbye, Vacations., The Slate Group llc. September 23, 2004)

Capitalism provides many necessary functions

Capitalism allows for creation of wealth, basic necessities, goods and services, motivation, elimination of hunger, improvements, etc. The lack of central planning and control, letting supply and demand dictate what will be sold at what price, and the concept of a laissez-faire approach to commerce makes the environment ripe for advancements in food production, distribution of goods, technological advances, medical breakthroughs, creation of jobs and employment and higher wages. As a result of a free market economy, people have motivation to take risks, hoping to reap the benefits of their risk, hard work, and innovation.

But it is imperative to recognize its harms.

Capitalism rewards, indeed depends upon, selfish, aggressive behavior. It values profits over people, promotes material values over spiritual values, dispenses power without social responsibility, and treats people as commodities to be discarded.

So, although capitalism is vital for a successful country, it must be regulated as to ensure the system does not become dehumanizing, especially as the death of welfare capitalism becomes more apparent.

Both United Airlines and US Airways are making noises about terminating their pension plans. Lucent recently said it would slash retiree health benefits yet again. The inability or refusal of companies to live up to promises and commitments made to workers seems to be largely a cyclical phenomenon, a symptom of temporarily sick industries (airlines) or of a company plagued by poor bets and bad management (Lucent). But it is also a sign of the troubling collapse of welfare capitalism.

Welfare capitalism is a term used by historians and economists to define the distinctive style of capitalism that emerged in the 20th century. Until the turn of the 20th century, fringe benefits, insurance, retirement plans, and health benefits—the perks we have come to define as essential to employment—simply didn't exist. Employers had compensated employees solely with wages. But that changed with the onset of industrial capitalism. In Europe, governments responded to industrialism by developing state-run systems of unemployment insurance, health care, and pensions. But—in yet another example for American exceptionalism—the private sector took the lead in the United States. After the age of the robber barons and various bitter strikes, forward-looking companies began to take action on their own. They were influenced by a range of factors: noblesse oblige, paternalism, and the emerging fields of industrial psychology and human resource management. Henry Ford led the way. In January 1914, Ford Motor Co. instituted the $5 day. Over the next several years, Ford took steps to ensure that its employees remained healthy, loyal, and above all, efficient. It opened an infirmary and established the "Sociological Department" to both keep tabs on and look after the welfare of its workers. In 1922, Ford cut the work week from six days to five. In the roaring 1920s, when other highly profitable companies began to emulate Ford, welfare capitalism began in earnest. Companies built cafeterias and health clinics, sponsored baseball and bowling leagues, and granted days off for the opening of deer season. Corning Glass Works began providing health insurance in 1923. The same year, U.S. Steel slashed its workday from 12 hours to eight. In 1927, International Harvester began offering two-week paid vacations. All this was all done without government mandates and largely without the influence of unions. Welfare capitalism proved a phenomenal success—socially, economically, and politically. America's industrial complex was ultimately unionized, but with relatively little upheaval. Even with the rise of the welfare state in the '30s, corporations continued to assume responsibility for the well-being of their employees. It was part of a grand bargain between labor, capital, and government that allowed for remarkable growth, innovation, and rising standards of living for decades. It also served as a bulwark against socialism. By endowing labor with dignity, welfare capitalists made industrial work a ticket to the middle class. But it started to fray in the 1960s.

It is morally imperative for the government to regulate capitalism. Without regulation capitalism becomes brutal, aggressive, and dehumanizing. Government requiring employers to pay a living wage humanizes the system, as it demands the ability for all employees to meet their basic human needs.

#### B. Government Regulations on the Private Sector Increase Morality

Levin-Waldman 2010 (Oren M. [Professor of Public Policy and Public Administration, School of Management, Metropolitan College of New York ] “Historical Studies: The Living Wage: Lessons from the History of Economic Thought” Industrial & Labor Relations Review Cornell University, April 2010, via Lexis Nexis)

The second basic idea, the capability argument, held that society needs to take into account whether or not wage workers earn a sufficient amount so that they are able to improve their abilities both as workers and as members of society. The failure to pay a living wage would threaten that capability, for workers not earning liveable wages would be unable to improve their abilities, and by extension, would not be able to develop those capabilities in their children. Society ostensibly wants its members not only to be effective producers but also to be effective citizens. Arguments of capability actually echoed Plato, Aristotle, and Aquinas. For Plato, marketplace competition was problematic because people would be so consumed by their own pursuit of wealth that they would be incapable of behaving in a virtuous manner. Aristotle, in contrast, defended private property and maintained that individuals needed incentives to care for property. Aquinas argued that prices charged had to be just. A wage pushing workers below subsistence level eroded their chances of being virtuous and were therefore unjust. Thus, a moral economy needed to be balanced against the market economy through the cultivation of virtue.

A government mandated minimum wage would allow for the competition of the private sector to inspire hard work and dedication, while disallowing for the social ill fallout that the system is known to create

#### C. Requiring Living Wages is the only way to ensure Living Wages Sonn, Gebreselassie 2010(Paul K [Legal Co-Director, National Employment Law Project] Tsedeye [Staff Attorney, National Employment Law Project] “The Road to Responsible Contracting: Lessons from States and Cities for Ensuring That Federal Contracting Delivers Good Jobs and Quality Services” Berkeley Journal of Employment and Labor Law 2010 via Lexis Nexis)

Reforming the DOL's methodology for determining prevailing wages, which was weakened by the Reagan Administration in the early 1980s, can help ensure more adequate wages under federal contracts. But even with such improvements, the prevailing wage laws are just one tool for promoting responsible employment practices on federally funded projects. Because prevailing wage laws mirror local industry standards, they will never consistently guarantee living wages and adequate benefits in all regions and occupations. Moreover, they do not address contractors' records of violating workplace, tax, and other laws. They should therefore be supplemented with responsible contracting reforms to ensure that federal spending creates good jobs for communities and provides quality services for the taxpayers.

# Extensions

### Capitalism Good

**Capital is Ethical**

**Ditmar 09** (Bob. "Capitalism Promotes Freedom and Opportunity." Opposing Viewpoints: American Values. Ed. David M. Haugen. Detroit:Greenhaven Press, 2009. Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center) BSH

From an ethical standpoint, I believe the free market system is the most logical system based upon the belief that there are universal moral truths and principles. In many ways, capitalism is based upon many of our Christian values of creation, the Golden Rule, and many of God's commandments. Acting in accordance with our Christian beliefs, the free market system allows for creation of wealth by enhancing and improving what God has given us through strong work ethics. Capitalism as a system gives more food, medical and monetary aid to poor nations than do other economic systems. This is in accordance with the principle of those that are blessed by God with wealth should not keep all for themselves, but strive to help those that are poor by always trying to give aid and help to bring those that are poor up to the standards of the wealthier. It is attempting to bring about economic justice to all. Everyone has a "right" as endowed by our Creator, to life, liberty, freedom of thought and deed, and the pursuit of happiness. Only capitalism recognizes that these principles are endowed by God and strives to give all mankind the access to live up to these God-given principles. Capitalism does not attempt to "play God," by telling people what to think, do, or act on, but instead attempts to give all a sense of awareness, social responsibility and develop individual's conscience to strive for doing good. Capitalism wants everyone to succeed by virtue of God-given talents and hard work. Ethically, this means capitalism, more than any other, attempts to follow the Golden Rule of "doing unto others as you would want to have done to you."

#### Self Interest is Good and Inevitable

**Barnhizer, 6** David, Prof of Law, Cleveland State U, ‘Waking from Sustainability's "Impossible Dream”,’ Geo Int’l Envtl L Rev, pg. l/n

Devotees of sustainability pin their hopes on an awakening by an enlightened populace that will rise up and insist that business and government behave in ways that reflect the idea that "[a] sustainable society is one that can persist over generations, one that is far-seeing enough, flexible enough, and wise enough not to undermine either its physical or its social systems of support." [n81](http://www.lexisnexis.com.www2.lib.ku.edu:2048/us/lnacademic/frame.do?tokenKey=rsh-20.714257.8466500462&target=results_DocumentContent&reloadEntirePage=true&rand=1231738964826&returnToKey=20_T5507732879&parent=docview#n81) **This awakening is not going to happen**. There will never be a populist revolution in the way humans value the environment, social justice, and other matters of moral consequence. We frequently "talk the talk," but rarely "walk the walk." [n82](http://www.lexisnexis.com.www2.lib.ku.edu:2048/us/lnacademic/frame.do?tokenKey=rsh-20.714257.8466500462&target=results_DocumentContent&reloadEntirePage=true&rand=1231738964826&returnToKey=20_T5507732879&parent=docview#n82) This discrepancy is partly an individual failure, but it is even more a result of the powerful forces that operate within our culture. Residents of Western cultures are shaped by the system in which they live. They will never possess either the clarity of agenda or the political will essential to a coherent and coordinated shift in behavior due to a combination of ignorance, greed, sloth, and inundation by political and consumerist propaganda. This combination means there will be no values shift welling up from the people and demanding the transformation of our systems of production and resource use. Paul Tournier captured the essence of the cultural forces when he observed: [People] have become merely cogs in the machine of production, tools, functions. All that matters is what they do, not what they think or feel. . . . [T]heir thoughts and feelings are . . . molded by propaganda, press, cinema and radio. They read the same newspaper each day, hear the same slogans, see the same advertisements. [n83](http://www.lexisnexis.com.www2.lib.ku.edu:2048/us/lnacademic/frame.do?tokenKey=rsh-20.714257.8466500462&target=results_DocumentContent&reloadEntirePage=true&rand=1231738964826&returnToKey=20_T5507732879&parent=docview#n83) Feeling helpless in the face of inordinate complexity and vast impersonal forces causes us to flee from our personal responsibility and become absorbed into the systems of institutions. The price of the required allegiance includes accepting (or appearing to accept) the institution's values as our own. We become a contributing part of the same system that oppresses us and steals our humanity and idealism. This assimilation allows us to avoid the harshest application of the system's power while reaping the rewards of collaboration. We become, in the  [\*629]  words of Pink Floyd, "just another brick in the wall." [n84](http://www.lexisnexis.com.www2.lib.ku.edu:2048/us/lnacademic/frame.do?tokenKey=rsh-20.714257.8466500462&target=results_DocumentContent&reloadEntirePage=true&rand=1231738964826&returnToKey=20_T5507732879&parent=docview#n84) When we attempt to talk about the need to do such things as internalize costs that are now allowed to remain external to the entities generating the harms and shifting to a system of low or no impact on the Earth's natural systems, we are talking about fundamental, non-voluntary changes in entitlements and lifestyle. Even Alan Greenspan drew severe criticism when he recently suggested that social security benefits should be reduced. [n85](http://www.lexisnexis.com.www2.lib.ku.edu:2048/us/lnacademic/frame.do?tokenKey=rsh-20.714257.8466500462&target=results_DocumentContent&reloadEntirePage=true&rand=1231738964826&returnToKey=20_T5507732879&parent=docview#n85) Jacques Chirac's party in France has seen its public support plummet due to efforts to reduce social spending. [n86](http://www.lexisnexis.com.www2.lib.ku.edu:2048/us/lnacademic/frame.do?tokenKey=rsh-20.714257.8466500462&target=results_DocumentContent&reloadEntirePage=true&rand=1231738964826&returnToKey=20_T5507732879&parent=docview#n86) Germans have taken to the streets in the hundreds of thousands to protest their leaders' efforts to develop plans to gain control of the German welfare state. [n87](http://www.lexisnexis.com.www2.lib.ku.edu:2048/us/lnacademic/frame.do?tokenKey=rsh-20.714257.8466500462&target=results_DocumentContent&reloadEntirePage=true&rand=1231738964826&returnToKey=20_T5507732879&parent=docview#n87) It is impossible to generate the political will that would be required to change the system we have constructed into one that satisfies the demands of sustainability. This is not surprising because the clear message is that we **need economic growth**. The situation we face is akin to Bangladesh where I was part of a group urging the country's Planning Minister to take potential environmental harms and ecosystem impacts into greater account in his planning. He responded that the ideas were admirable in theory but that he had to worry about generating jobs and food for 160 million people. He indicated that while he respected the arguments for sustainability his more immediate needs were to ensure jobs and food for Bangladeshis. In a similar context, while teaching international environmental law in St. Petersburg, Russia, my discussion with Russian academic colleagues related to water pollution in the area, radioactive materials dumping, and the raw air pollution from Lada cars running on 76 octane gasoline and other uncontrolled emitters of air pollution that fouled the air of this most beautiful city. At the end of the course one of my Russian colleagues said, "I found it all fascinating. But you know we have other problems with which we must deal before we can begin to worry about the environment. Perhaps in fifteen years or so we will be ready." I found myself unable to disagree with the speakers in either Bangladesh or Russia. Return to the idea of our inability to generate the political will that would be required to achieve fundamental change if we decided that the Agenda 21 type of sustainable development ideas were good social and economic strategies. Even if  [\*630]  they were desirable, they are "impossible dreams" because the people and institutions who set policy and decide on actions in the business and governmental arenas will never accept them as guides for behavior or as requirements for decision making. This impossibility exists because we are not free and independent individuals but creatures of habit, dominated by the culture in which we exist. We desire to behave according to the dictates of the powerful systems that govern our lives and culture.

#### Capitalism is Inevitable

**Wilson 2** (John K., coordinator of the Independent Press Association’s Campus Journalism Project, How the Left can Win Arguments and Influence People, pg 12- 14) BSH

Progressive capitalism is not a contradiction in terms, for progressives support capitalism in many ways. Even nonprofit organizations and cooperatives are not antithetical to capitalism and the market; these groups simply use capitalism for aims different from the single-minded pursuit of profits. But the rules of supply and demand, the expenses and revenues, the idea of entrepreneurship and innovation, and the need to adapt to the market are essential. Any progressive magazine or institution that tries to defy the rules of capitalism won't be around for very long and certainly won’t have the resources to mount a serious advocacy of progressive ideas. One of the most effective tactics of the environmental movement was encouraging consumers to consider environmental values when making capitalist choices about what products to buy. Today, a manufacturer who ignores environmental issues puts its profits at risk because so many people are looking for environmentally friendly products and packaging. Crusades against Coca-Cola for its massive output of non-recycled plastic bottles in America or against companies supporting foreign dictatorships are part of the continuing battle to force companies to pay attention to consumer demands. Of course, consumer protests and boycotts are only one part of making "capitalism for everyone." Many progressive groups are now buying stock in companies precisely to raise these issues at stockholder meetings and pressure the companies to adopt environmentally and socially responsible policies. Unfortunately, the legal system is structured against progressive ideas. In 2000, Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream was forced to sell out to a big corporation that might ignore its commitment to many progressive causes. The company didn't want to sell, but the law demanded that the company's duty to stockholders was to consider only the money involved. Imagine what would happen if our capitalist laws were designed to promote progressive ideas instead of impeding them. Instead of allowing a shareholder lawsuit against any company acting in a morally, socially, and environmentally conscious way, American laws should encourage these goals. The claim by some leftists that capitalism is inherently irresponsible or evil doesn't make sense. Capitalism is simply a system of markets. What makes capitalism so destructive isn't the basic foundation but the institutions that have been created in the worship of the "free market." Unfortunately, progressives spend most of their time attacking capitalism rather than taking credit for all the reforms that led to America's economic growth.

**Capitalism Increases Productivity and Prevents War**

**Weede 08** (Erich, professor at the Institute for Political Science and Sociology, “Globalization and Inequality” Comparative Sociology 7, p. 415-433) BSH

Globalization refers to an increasing international division of labor and more trade between economies, to cross-border investment and rapid transfers of technology between nations, to global capital ﬂows and, to a lesser degree, to increasing labor mobility. There is as yet no global labor market. Globalization also implies better opportunities to learn from foreigners or strangers. The more similar you are to others, the less likely it is that you can learn from them.1 Unfortunately, many people prefer to rely on established routines and resent the challenge of having to learn from others. Globalization is another word for a worldwide expansion of capitalism. It results in international tax competition (Edwards and de Rugy 2002; Mitchell 2005). Globalization is based on some technological and political prerequisites. These include ever cheaper and faster means of communication and transportation as well as an adequate political environment. The global expansion of capitalism requires political fragmentation: markets should be larger than political units.2 This provides an exit option from oppressive government for capital and, to a lesser degree, for qualiﬁed labor. Such an exit option protects economic freedom from ever-increasing state interference and tax burdens. If one state should be much more powerful than all others, as the US currently is, then globalization requires a deeper commitment to capitalism and economic freedom by the hegemon than by other states. Th ese political requirements of globalization are fulﬁlled. Globalization maximizes the size of the market. Since Adam Smith (1776/1976) we know that the size of the market determines the degree of division of labor which promotes productivity. Thus, globalization is beneﬁcial because it increases productivity. This is not only a theoretical claim, but also an empirical statement. For instance, based on data from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, yearly economic gains from globalization have been estimated to be somewhere between $1,650 and $3,300 per capita for Americans (Scheve and Slaughter 2007:36–37). Real compensation per hour (including beneﬁts and wages) has also gone up in the past decade, by 22 percent (Griswold 2007:1).3 Since Deng Xiaoping opened China in the late 1970s by introducing reforms which imply creeping capitalism, Chinese agricultural production grew rapidly. Later, China attracted a lot of foreign direct investment. Today China is a major base for manufacturing. By 2005 it was already the third largest exporter, still behind Germany and the US but already ahead of Japan (Th e Economist 2005). By 2008 China is likely to become the biggest exporter in the world. In the early 1980s (but no longer thereafter) even the disparity between urban and rural incomes in China decreased (Lin, Cai, and Li 2003:145). Hundreds of millions of Chinese were taken out of abject poverty. In the ﬁrst two decades of reform, per capita incomes grew fourfold (Bhalla 2002:218). Later, less radical reforms in India led to nearly doubling per capita incomes in a similar period of time and pulled about two hundred million Indians out of abject poverty (Das 2002:360). Since China and India together account for nearly forty percent of mankind and about half of the population living in less developed countries, economic growth in China and India and other Asian countries contributes to the equalization of the global distributions of income between individuals and households. If we are interested in individuals rather than states, then the empirical indicators are clear. Globalization or the global expansion of capitalism has contributed to, or at least been compatible with, an equalization of the size distribution of income between human beings. Since cross-national differences between average incomes are still a more important component of inequality between human beings than intra-national differences in income, it is possible – and currently true – to have the following two trajectories at the same time: growing inequality within many or even most countries amidst some movement towards equality among individuals worldwide (Bhalla 2002; Firebaugh 1999; Goesling 2001; Sala-i-Martin 2007; World Bank 2005). Admittedly, many economies, including the US and China, suffered some deterioration in their domestic income distributions. This is why the legitimacy of capitalism and globalization comes under attack, even in the American citadel of capitalism. This is also why calls for protectionism become louder and louder (Scheve and Slaughter 2007). But critics of globalization tend to forget a basic truth about free trade (Griswold 2007:3): “If workers, capital, and resources can shift within the domestic economy, jobs eliminated by import competition will quickly be replaced by jobs created elsewhere.”4 One should not blame the consequences of institutional sclerosis, or of an unwillingness to adjust, on globalization.  Globalization has led to a significant reduction in mass poverty. Although the Chinese distribution of income has become much less equal since the reform process began in the late 1970s, the strong growth performance of China has pulled hundreds of millions out of abject poverty. In India growth has been less spectacular than in China such that the distribution of income has changed less, and yet again hundreds of millions have been pulled out of abject poverty. Although Latin America and Africa have benefitted much less from globalization than Asia has, these continents also cannot match the demographic weight of Asia. Therefore, their comparative lack of success cannot neutralize Asian progress in global perspective. Moreover, one has to keep in mind that winning in the process of globalization presupposes participating in it, not abstaining from it. One may illustrate global change with data provided by Indian economist Surjit Bhalla (2002:187). He deﬁnes people with a daily income between $10–$40 USD as members of the global middle class. In 1960 this class consisted largely of whites; only six percent were Asians. By 2000, however, 52 percent was Asian. Th e era of globalization is one in which Asia is now recovering, after falling for about two centuries further behind the West. Except for Africa abject poverty worldwide is likely to become signiﬁcantly reduced within one or two decades. Th e African share of abject poverty in the world is expected to rise until 2015 from 36 percent to about 90 percent (Bhalla 2002:S. 172).5 Why did so many people in Asia beneﬁt from globalization, whereas Africans did not? A plausible explanation has been oﬀered by Collier (2007:79).6 He points out that about three quarters of the bottom billion7 live in countries which have suﬀered from civil war or long periods of bad governance and poor economic policies. According to Collier (2007:27), “civil war is development in reverse. It damages both the country itself and its neighbors.” Bad governance and poor economic policies distort incentives and misallocate the meager resources of poor countries. Africa has suﬀered from these development traps to a greater degree than other continents. Moreover, one may argue that a focus on income and income distributions is biased towards understating the beneﬁts of globalization. As Goklany (2007:chaps. 2–3) has pointed out, the same income per capita today (in terms of purchasing power) implies higher life expectancies, lower infant mortalities, less malnutrition, healthier lives, and less child labor than it did decades or centuries earlier. Less developed, still poor countries do benefit from the technological progress achieved by developed and rich countries. Thus, even if one disputes the widely held and well-supported view regarding some equalization of individual or house-hold incomes worldwide in recent decades, one should still accept Goklany’s contention (2007:72): “In the aspects of human well-being that are truly critical – life expectancy, infant mortality, hunger, literacy, and child labor – the world is far more equal today than it was a century ago, in large part because of globalization.”8  Another advantage of globalization is that it contributes to preventing war (Russett and Oneal 2001; Weede 2005). Quantitative research demonstrates that the risk of war between nations is reduced if they trade a lot with each other.

**Rejecting capitalism causes massive ecological disasters**

**Butters ‘7** (Roger B., Ph.D., President – Nebraska Council on Economic Education, Assistant Professor of Economics – University of Nebraska at Lincoln, “Teaching the Benefits of Capitalism”

Property rights create the incentive needed to conserve scarce resources. Why is the air outside polluted and the air in your car clean? The answer is property rights. You don’t own the air outside your car so you gladly pollute it whereas the air inside your car, over which you have a property right, is jealously maintained with air‐conditioning, filters and air fresheners. How can we solve the pollution problem? Simple, establish a property right and require that all exhaust fumes be vented inside the vehicle that creates them. Suddenly the incentive to use better fuels, drive a more efficient vehicle and reduce emissions would result in booming innovation in pollution abatement; all in response to a property right. Clearly this example pushes into the absurd, but it illustrate the point none‐the‐less. For a more practical comparison consider why private bathrooms are clean, and public ones are not. Better yet, why are Maine Lobsters plentiful and orange roughy aren’t? – Property rights. Why are cows thriving and tigers vanishing? Property rights. For cows people have a direct incentive to preserve, protect and improve. For tigers the only incentive is to use the resource before someone else does. Why are elephants and other endangered species on the rebound in some African countries? Property rights. By letting villages own the animals they have an incentive to preserve, protect and improve, and as a result the animals are thriving. Rather than calling poachers when a rhinoceros decimates your corn field, you care for the animal, make sure it has several young and then auction the right to shoot it to a wealthy game hunter. The animals are preserved, the population is maintained, the village receives increased wealth and a private individual has a unique experience. By defining the property right we have gone from extinction and poverty to trade and wealth and at the end of the day there are more, not fewer rhinoceroses. The tragedy of the commons is one of the most valuable and pervasive examples of what happens when property rights are poorly defined and unenforced. What is the benefit of capitalism? It provides us with property rights that create the incentives to preserve, protect and improve. It is not surprising that the greatest ecological disasters have all occurred in societies without strong social institutions that protect property.

### Living Wage is Not Harmful

#### Increasing Wages Helps the Economy, and does Not Result in Unemployment.

Weir, 2012 [Larry Hubich Erin [QUALIFICATIONS], "Minimum wage hike can benefit Sask. economy" The Star-Phonenix; August 31, 2012, L/N ]

Better wages would help encourage more people to enter the workforce. Claims that minimum wages reduce employment have no empirical support. Economics professors from the universities of Massachusetts (Amherst), North Carolina (Chapel Hill) and California (Berkeley) recently compared adjacent U.S. counties along the borders of states with different minimum wages. Their conclusion, published in the November 2010 edition of The Review of Economics and Statistics, was that: "For cross-state contiguous counties, we find strong earnings effects and no employment effects of minimum wage increases." Page 1 In other words, boosting the minimum wage succeeded in raising pay without reducing employment, even when neighbouring jurisdictions maintained a lower minimum.

#### Living Wage increases pay without increasing unemployment

**Burke, Miller, Long, 2011** (Debra [University of Texas, professer, Western Carolina University] Stephen [BS, Towson University, MA, George Mason University, PhD, George Mason University, assistant Professer, Western Carolina University] Joseph [BA Wingate University, JD University of Mississippi, Assistant Professor, Western Carolina University] “Minimum Wage and Unemployment Rates: A Study of Contiguous Counties”  Gonzaga Law Review 2011 via LexisNexis)

 A recent study of the Los Angeles Living Wage Ordinance, ascertained that it had increased pay in nearly ten thousand jobs, primarily affecting low-income workers, with minimal employment reductions.

#### Increasing pay empirically decreases turnover rates

**Jacobs, Graham 2010** (Ken [Chair, UC Berkeley Labor Center] Dave [Research Associate, UC Berkeley Labor Center] “Labor Standards for School Cafeteria Workers, Turnover and Public Program Utilization” Berkeley Journal of Employment and Labor Law 2010 via LexisNexis)

In a study of the Los Angeles Living Wage Ordinance, holding all else constant, Fairris found a 35 percent reduction in turnover in firms that increased wages in response to the law, with an average increase of 23 percent, which results in an elasticity of 1.5. n33Reich, Hall and Jacobs analyzed the impact of minimum compensation standards for contractors at the San Francisco International Airport. N34Turnover in firms where wages increased by 10 percent or more fell by nearly 60 percent.

### Inflation Does Not Counter Living Wage

#### Inflation does not counter Living Wage

**CHAPMAN AND THOMPSON, 2006**( Researching at Washington state budget and policy center, Assistant Research Professor at Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts Amherst, he Economic Policy Institute, The Economic Impact of Living Wages)

In 1999, the Economic Policy Institute (EPI) published the third study of the Baltimore experience. Analyzing contracts that could be directly compared before and after the implementation of the ordinance, the EPI research associates from Johns Hopkins University found that the nominal contract costs for the city rose just 1.2%—lower than inflation during the same period—and concluded that the “budgetary impact of the living wage [in Baltimore] has, to date, been insignificant” (Niedt et al. 1999, 6-9). Despite the overall real decline in contract costs during the period under study, there was a range of results for different contract types. Some contracts experienced moderate price decreases, while others grew considerably. The overall price for the heavily affected janitorial contracts, for example, rose 16.6% in nominal terms, with specific contracts seeing price increases ranging from less than 1% to over 50%. The overall budgetary impact of these contracts, however, was negligible as cost increases in other contract areas were more modest. The EPI study’s overall conclusion was that “the widely voiced fear that [the living wage ordinance] implementation would place intolerable strains on the city’s budget have not yet materialized.”

#### Living Wage Will Cause Little Price Increases for Concumers

**CHAPMAN AND THOMPSON, 2006**( Researching at Washington state budget and policy center, Assistant Research Professor at Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts Amherst, he Economic Policy Institute, The Economic Impact of Living Wages)

One of the most comprehensive, post-passage studies of a living wage ordinance followed the implementation of the living wage at the San Francisco International Airport (SFO). The SFO policy is almost universally applied to the airport workforce, directly affecting the wages of about 5,400 workers6 (Reich 2005, 119). The living wage policy is actually part of a series of policies called the Quality Standards Program (QSP) that includes a wage floor. Unlike most other living wage ordinances, the affected firms don’t provide services for a municipal government, but instead operate in a publicly owned facility. Most of the study, produced by Michael Reich and colleagues at UC Berkeley, concerns the employment and other economic impacts of the QSP (which will be discussed in the next section), and addresses the issue of cost increases faced by airport consumers. Reich shows that even if the entire employee compensation cost of the QSP was passed on to consumers, the effect would be relatively minor—an increase of $1.42 per passenger, an amount unlikely to deter people from using SFO (Reich 2005, 124). This hypothetical increase is substantially less than the $5 “per segment” security tax implemented following September 11th and the $4.50 departure tax proposed by the airport in 2001 to study options for a new runway.

### No Living Wage is Bad

#### Governmental support programs don't solve for Low wages

**Burke, Miller, Long, 2011** (Debra [University of Texas, professer, Western Carolina University] Stephen [BS, Towson University, MA, George Mason University, PhD, George Mason University, assistant Professer, Western Carolina University] Joseph [BA Wingate University, JD University of Mississippi, Assistant Professor, Western Carolina University] “Minimum Wage and Unemployment Rates: A Study of Contiguous Counties”  Gonzaga Law Review 2011 via LexisNexis)

Although seemingly self-evident, the primary problem of low-wage workers is low wages, along with the absence of benefits. n64 While governmental income support programs exist, such support programs are not administered in a coordinated fashion, require a cumbersome application process, and remain insufficiently publicized and stigmatized.

#### Starvation Wage

Jason Easley, PoliticusUSA December, 30th, 2013, 4:10 pm

In 2013, Senator Sanders said on MSNBC “Look. Here’s the story. The story is that the national minimum wage is seven and a quarter an hour. I think most people understand that’s a starvation wage. Individuals can’t live on it. Families can’t live on it. If we raise the minimum wage to $10.10 an hour, which to my mind doesn’t go as far as it should, that would be a raise for 30 million Americans, vast majority of them are adults.

#### Lower Wages Leads to Lower Quality

**Sonn, Gebreselassie 2010** (Paul K [Legal Co-Director, National Employment Law Project] Tsedeye [Staff Attorney, National Employment Law Project] “The Road to Responsible Contracting: Lessons from States and Cities for Ensuring That Federal Contracting Delivers Good Jobs and Quality Services” Berkeley Journal of Employment and Labor Law 2010 via Lexis Nexis)

Within construction contracting, research indicates that high-road contractors that comply with workplace laws and provide quality training, wages, and benefits typically have better skilled and more productive workforces that produce higher-quality work and save taxpayers money. As early as the 1980s, an audit by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) of seventeen HUD sites found a "direct correlation between labor law violations and poor quality construction."

### Living Wage is Good

#### Living Wage improves satisfaction of worker and customer

**Sonn, Gebreselassie 2010** (Paul K [Legal Co-Director, National Employment Law Project] Tsedeye [Staff Attorney, National Employment Law Project] “The Road to Responsible Contracting: Lessons from States and Cities for Ensuring That Federal Contracting Delivers Good Jobs and Quality Services” Berkeley Journal of Employment and Labor Law 2010 via Lexis Nexis)

Furthermore, a growing body of research demonstrates that in many industries, contractors that provide good wages and benefits and respect workplace laws deliver higher-quality services for government agencies and the taxpayers. For example, as discussed in greater detail below, studies of local living wage policies have found that better-paid workforces typically see decreased employee turnover (with corresponding savings in re-staffing costs), increased productivity, and improvements in the quality and reliability of contracted services for taxpayers. N13In a leading case study, the San Francisco International Airport saw annual turnover for security screeners plummet from 94.7 percent to 18.7 percent after it instituted a living wage policy. As a result, employers saved about $ 4,275 per employee in turnover costs and reported improvements in employee performance, employee morale and customer service.

#### Living Wage Increases the Quality of Work

Siebold 2013 (Steve, Author, New Gallup Poll Shows 70 Percent of Americans Are Disengaged From Their Jobs, TheHuffingtonPost. June 19, 2013)

Siebol writes “A recent Gallup poll found that 70 percent of American workers are disengaged from their jobs. Of the 100 million people who hold jobs in America, the survey found that 30 million are actively engaged, 50 million are not engaged and 20 million are actively disengaged. The consequences are many, but Gallup estimates that actively disengaged employees cost the U.S. as much as $550 billion in economic activity each year. The public also suffers immensely as this disengagement will undoubtedly rub off on poor customer service and issues of quality control.”

### SO MANY BENEFITS!!!

#### Providing living wage has a multitude of benefits.

Pickett ’14 (Kate, Professor of Epidemiology in the Department of Health Sciences at the University of York, ADDRESSING HEALTH INEQUALITIES THROUGH GREATER SOCIAL EQUALITY AT A LOCAL LEVEL: IMPLEMENT A LIVING WAGE POLICY, If You Could Do One Thing…British Academy for Humanities and Social Studies.)

The single best action that I believe local authorities can take to reduce health inequalities is to implement a living wage policy. This will have a direct impact on the UK’s income inequality, which in turn is a root cause of health inequalities and other social ills. Through this proposal I will set out: • Why inequality matters. In the UK you can expect to live about 8 years longer if you live in the wealthiest rather than poorest areas. More unequal societies tend to have poorer outcomes on obesity, drug dependency, mental illness and infant mortality. They also have higher teenage births, lower child wellbeing, lower educational attainment and less social mobility. • Evidence demonstrating that the vast majority of the population do better in more equal societies. Runaway incomes at the top are just as damaging as inadequate incomes at the bottom. • How the current economic climate of stagnant wages, unemployment and welfare cuts mean that the lowest paid are seeing declining incomes in both absolute and relative terms, with knock-on effects for health and social problems. • The role of local authorities in addressing income inequalities, including the practical action being taken by Fairness Commissions across the country to investigate and implement ways of reducing inequality in their areas. • The case for the living wage. In the UK today, work does not always provide a way out of poverty – close to two-thirds of children growing up in poverty live in a household where at least one person works. Extending the living wage to everybody would reduce income inequality in society. Its impact would be strongly progressive, with the largest proportional gains to the poorest 10 per cent of households. People here would see their disposable income rise by around 7 per cent on average.1 It would also reduce income inequality within workplaces, assuming no changes in top wages. • Raising the wages of those on the very lowest incomes through paying and, importantly, encouraging others to pay, a living wage provides: a. an incentive to work; b. a way out of in-work poverty; c. improvements in work quality and productivity; d. falls in absenteeism; e. positive impacts on recruitment and retention; and f. a way of directly addressing inequalities in health and wellbeing.

### Minimum Wage is Insufficient

####  Minimum wage is furthering poverty

MIT University, 2014 ["Introduction to the Living Wage Calculator"(March 24, 2014)]

In many American communities, families working in low-wage jobs make insufficient income to live locally given the local cost of living. Recently, in a number of high-cost communities, community organizers and citizens have successfully argued that the prevailing wage offered by the public sector and key businesses should reflect a wage rate required to meet minimum standards of living. Therefore we have developed a living wage calculator to estimate the cost of living in your community or region. The calculator lists typical expenses, the living wage and typical wages for the selected location. Update (3-24-14) While the minimum wage sets an earnings threshold under which our society is not willing to let families slip, it fails to approximate the basic expenses of families in 2013. Consequently, many working adults must seek public assistance and/or hold multiple jobs in order to afford to feed, cloth, house, and provide medical care for themselves and their families. Establishing a living wage, an approximate income needed to meet a family’s basic needs, would enable the working poor to achieve financial independence while maintaining housing and food security. When coupled with lowered expenses, for childcare and housing in particular, the living wage might also free up resources for savings, investment, and/or for the purchase of capital assets (e.g. provisions for retirement or home purchases) that build wealth and ensure long-term financial security. An analysis of the living wage using updated data from 2013 and compiling geographically specific expenditure data for food, childcare, health care, housing, transportation, and other basic necessities, finds that: The minimum wage does not provide a living wage for most American families. A typical family of four (two working adults, two children) needs to work more than 3 full-time minimum-wage jobs (a 68-hour work week per working adult) to earn a living wage. Across all family sizes, the living wage exce

eds the poverty threshold, often used to identify need. This means that families earning between the poverty threshold ($23,283 for two working adults, two children) and the median living wage ($51,224 for two working adults, two children per year before taxes), may fall short of the income and assistance they require to meet their basic needs. The cost of housing and childcare for families with children exceeds all other expenses. In the United State, a typical family of four (two working adults, two children) spends 21% of their after-tax income on childcare and another 21% on housing. Faced with tradeoffs, a second working adult must earn at least $11,195 on average in order to cover the costs of childcare and other increased expenses when they enter the workforce. Single-parent families need to work almost twice as hard as families with two working adults to earn the living wage. A single-mother with two children earning the federal minimum wage of $7.25 per hour needs to work 125 hours per week, more hours than there are in a 5-day week, to earn a living wage. The living wage varies based on the cost of living and taxes where families live. Families of four (with two working adults, two children) in the North ($56,179) and West ($53,505) have higher median living wages before taxes than the South ($49,167), and Midwest ($48,496). Within region, the largest variation is between Southern states, where the living wage ranges from $45,655 in South Carolina to $69,820 in the District of Columbia. In most metropolitan areas, where the US economy and jobs are increasingly concentrated, the living wage is higher than the national median. Consistent with overall regional variation, of the most populous 100 metropolitan areas, Honolulu ($66,554), New York ($67,323), and Washington DC ($69,709) have the highest living wages for the typical family of four.

#### Requiring Living Wages is the only way to ensure Living Wages

Sonn, Gebreselassie 2010 (Paul K [Legal Co-Director, National Employment Law Project] Tsedeye [Staff Attorney, National Employment Law Project] “The Road to Responsible Contracting: Lessons from States and Cities for Ensuring That Federal Contracting Delivers Good Jobs and Quality Services” Berkeley Journal of Employment and Labor Law 2010 via Lexis Nexis)

Reforming the DOL's methodology for determining prevailing wages, which was weakened by the Reagan Administration in the early 1980s, can help ensure more adequate wages under federal contracts. But even with such improvements, the prevailing wage laws are just one tool for promoting responsible employment practices on federally funded projects. Because prevailing wage laws mirror local industry standards, they will never consistently guarantee living wages and adequate benefits in all regions and occupations. Moreover, they do not address contractors' records of violating workplace, tax, and other laws. They should therefore be supplemented with responsible contracting reforms to ensure that federal spending creates good jobs for communities and provides quality services for the taxpayers.

#### Minimum wage is not keeping pace with inflation.

Brustin, 2012 (Stacy [an Associate Professor of Law at The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law] “Child Support: Shifting the Financial Burden in Low-Income Families”, Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law & Policy (Fall 2012) via lexisnexis)

One avenue that child support advocates for low-income resident and nonresident parents might consider is joining forces with employment law advocates to push for increases in minimum wage laws and living wage initiatives. From 2007 to 2009, Congress raised the federal minimum wage from $ 5.15 to $ 7.25 per hour. This was the first in-crease in ten years and, despite the increase, the minimum wage rate failed to keep up with the rate of inflation. Economists have calculated that if the minimum wage "had kept pace with the rate of inflation over the past forty years, it would now be more than $ 10.00 per hour." Currently, eighteen states and the District of Columbia have minimum wages higher than the federal minimum wage and legislators around the country  [\*45]  are trying to ex-pand the state count. Most recently, the Rebuild America Act, introduced in March 2012, proposes to increase the federal minimum wage to $ 9.80 per hour by 2014 and index the rate to the Consumer Price Index so that the mini-mum wage rises to meet costs

#### Local Governments have initiated Living Wages.

Brustin, 2012 (Stacy [an Associate Professor of Law at The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law] “Child Support: Shifting the Financial Burden in Low-Income Families”, Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law & Policy (Fall 2012) via lexisnexis)

Local governments throughout the United States have also enacted living wage initiatives that require local gov-ernments and contractors doing business with local governments to pay a wage that lifts individuals and families above the poverty level. One hundred twenty-five municipalities have enacted living wage ordinances mandating increased wages designed to bring workers to a minimal standard of living. Most of the ordinances enacted to date only apply to public employers or government contractors. Some ordinances, however, apply to private employers that do not have contractual relationships or receive aid from local governments

#### A minimum and living wage are different because minimum wages don’t support basic needs.

Klein, 2014 (Seth, B.C. Director, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, “Working poor still underpaid; Minimum wage, living wage aren't the same, but latter is worth striving for”, The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia), May 10, LexisNexis)

Mark von Schellwitz is right that a minimum wage and a living wage are not the same. But he seems to be confused about the difference. He claims the B.C. Federation of Labour's call for a $13 per hour minimum wage would make it a "living wage." That's incorrect, and not what those calling for an increase to the minimum wage have said. The living wage for Metro Vancouver, as calculated by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, and used to officially certifying living wage employers, is $20.10 an hour. That's how much parents with young children need to earn to cover basic expenses in the Lower Mainland. No one has said this should be the new legal minimum wage. Rather, the living wage call is a voluntary one to employers themselves to become living wage employers. This may be beyond the reach of some employers, but many can and should pay it. The call for the minimum wage to go to $13 is different. At this level, a single person working full time and full year would have an income at the poverty line (a much lower bar). If von Schellwitz and the restaurant industry wish to defend the right of employers to pay a wage below the poverty line, they are welcome to do so. Let's hope our government chooses a different path.

### Solves Poverty

#### **Studies show less than a dollar increase can help poverty**

Warren, 2014 (James [News Washington Bureau Chief], "Feds: $10.10 zaps poverty" Daily News, February 19th: pg 2)

Boosting the federal minimum wage to $10.10 an hour would improve the earnings of 16.5 million Americans, and lift nearly a million people out of poverty, a nonpartisan study concluded Tuesday. It would mean $5 billion a year more in income for families now living below the federal poverty line, and it would bring $12 million a year to families living not far above that level. But the analysis, by the Congressional Budget Office, also projected a downside - the potential loss of 500,000 jobs, many held by low-income workers. The analysis turbocharged a heated election-year debate, with Democrats trying to portray Republican opposition to a minimum wage hike as an affront to working Americans. The budget office said its estimate of job losses was approximate, and that the actual impact would likely range from a very slight reduction in jobs to the loss of as many as 1 million positions. Democrats and the White House charged that the job-loss projections are overblown and outweighed by the benefits to workers and the economy as low-paid employees use their higher incomes to spend more money. They cited other studies that conclude employment would not be reduced. "These estimates do not reflect the overall consensus view of economists, which is that raising the minimum wage has little or no negative effect on employment," two of President Obama's economic advisers wrote. Republicans seized on the study's job-loss projections. "With unemployment Americans' top concern, our focus should be creating, not destroying, jobs for those who need them most," said an aide to House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio). There has been an emerging consensus that raising the wage has "little or no negative effect on the employment of minimum-wage workers," as put by one assessment of more than 600 economists. Yet some economists still hold to a traditional notion that hiking wages means increasing employer and consumer costs, eventually impacting sales and hiring.

#### LIVING WAGES HELP MANY DEMOGRAPHICS

CHAPMAN AND THOMPSON, 2006 ( Researching at Washington state budget and policy center, Assistant Research Professor at Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts Amherst, he Economic Policy Institute, The Economic Impact of Living Wages)

The Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy conducted a survey in 2002 of 320 randomly selected workers who benefited from the Los Angeles living wage ordinance. This survey proved to be a rich data source for information on the thousands of workers who received raises, showing that: 9-6% were age 20 and older; 58% were 35 and older, 86% worked full time, 71% had only a high school degree or less, On average, workers had been in the workforce nearly 20 years, 29% were African American, 57% were female.The LAANE survey did not provide reliable family income data. Instead, LAANE analyzed a similar group of low-wage workers from the Current Population Survey, finding that 69% fell below a “basic needs” budget (Fairris et al. 2005, 38).9

#### LIVING WAGES BENEFIT BLACK AMERICANS

CHAPMAN AND THOMPSON, 2006 ( Researching at Washington state budget and policy center, Assistant Research Professor at Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts Amherst, he Economic Policy Institute, The Economic Impact of Living Wages)

Brenner and Luce surveyed 97 low-wage workers employed in the industries most affected by Boston’s living wage policy.10 The survey of this group of covered workers reveals a generally similar profile as Los Angeles: Workers were predominantly adult, full-time workers, who were disproportionately people of color. The average age of covered workers in Boston was 32, with 95% age 20 or older (Brenner and Luce 2005, 51-52). 40% of covered workers were African American, and 79% were female. The average covered worker worked 43 hour per week (Brenner and Luce 2005, 60). Workers benefiting from the Boston living wage policy were also disproportionately poor and low-income, especially prior to its implementation. Among those covered workers getting a wage increase under the ordinance, over half (54%) were from households with incomes too low to afford even a basic needs budget.

#### Minimum wage betters society and benefits the most impoverished:

Tamara Vrooman, (The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia);June 18, 2013 Tuesday;ISSUES & IDEAS; Tamara Vrooman; Pg. A11;Tamara Vrooman is president and CEO of Vancity, Canada's largest community credit union.)

The current minimum wage in British Colombia provides only 52 per cent of what a family of four with two adults working full-time needs to pay for basics in Metro Vancouver. Knowing this makes it clear that low wages are a factor in rates of homelessness and dependence on food banks. Putting more money in the hands of working families is one of the best economic development strategies we can employ and an important way to solve family and child poverty. Two years ago, Vancouver embarked on a journey to be Canada's largest living-wage employer. We knew that high living expenses combined with low wages meant that many thousands of families were living in poverty in B.C. For most of the last decade, our province has had the highest child poverty rate in Canada. Yet, data showed a significant number of those families had at least one parent working full-time. Simply put, a living wage is the amount of money an employee needs to earn - based on a typical work week - to meet a family's basic needs. The wage rate varies by community as it reflects costs associated with living in a specific place. In B.C., the living wage is calculated by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. The calculation of the living wage is based on maintaining a modest lifestyle. It includes enough for basic needs such as rental housing, food, clothing, child care, transportation, medical expenses and enough to ensure a family can afford to participate in some social activities, such as children's recreation. It's a bare-bones lifestyle. Our initial step as a living-wage employer was to ensure all our employees were paid a living wage. Then we looked at the areas of our business operations where we spent the majority of our budget for contracted labor services. As our agreements come up for renewal, we work closely with our suppliers to make the payment of a living wage an integral part of our business relationship. We paid particular attention to contracted employees who were at the highest r

isk of not earning a living wage. Typically for us, as for many organizations, these employees work in security, janitorial, and food services. Did it cost more? Yes it did; we consider this a direct investment in the health of our employees, suppliers' employees, and in the communities where we operate. We know the personal, social and economic impact that poverty has on individuals and communities. We also know that the benefits of paying a living wage extend far beyond the individual employee. I believe employment should lift you out of poverty and paying a living wage - one that reflects the actual cost of living - is an important and achievable poverty reduction strategy for many employers. As an organization with more than 2,500 employees, 57 community branches and numerous suppliers, implementing the living wage has been no small undertaking; but it is one of which we are extremely proud. The knowledge and experience we have collected along the way is immense. So as a part of our commitment, we are documenting some of the challenges and solutions we encountered over the past two years across all our areas of business. In collaboration with the Living Wage for Families Campaign, we'll be sharing them with other interested employers in the near future Vancouver, being a living-wage employer is another way we live our values and contribute to building healthy communities that are sustainable for the long term. Tamara Vrooman is president and CEO of Vancity, Canada's largest community credit union.

#### A living wage decreases poverty

Wilson 2008 (David, “Say Yes to a living wage”, The Calgary Herald, April 21, 2008, L/N)

One week from today, city council will debate whether to develop a living wage policy applicable to all city employees and employees of city service suppliers. Why is this an issue in Calgary's booming economy? Unfortunately, 13 per cent of Calgarians are still living in poverty. According to Statistics Canada, 34,800 workers in Calgary over the age of 25 make less than $12 an hour and more than 60 per cent are women. Inflation has eroded the minimum wage to 30 per cent below the poverty line. Amidst great wealth, many workers are stuck in poverty at a great cost to these people, their families and our city. One way to reduce poverty is by paying a living wage. George Akerlof, Nobel Prize winner in Economics, found that increasing low wages improved productivity, employee loyalty and customer satisfaction, and reduced employee turnover, hiring and training costs and absenteeism. In a Vibrant Communities Calgary study, 91 per cent of employers paying less than a living wage said they had difficulties attracting and retaining employees. In stark contrast, 55 per cent of employers paying a living wage in traditionally low wage jobs reported no such difficulties. A person working full time in Calgary needs to earn $12 an hour (or $13.25 an hour without benefits) to reach the poverty line as determined by the low income cut off. Over the past year, the city studied the impact of a living wage policy. It found that only 682 city employees earned less than a living wage in 2007. In a survey, more than 89 per cent of city suppliers indicated they already pay all of their employees a living wage and 94 per cent said they were likely to still bid on future contracts if the city adopted a living wage policy. Of note, 84 per cent of suppliers to the city have fewer than 20 employees. Obviously, a living wage policy is of little concern for small businesses who do business with the city. It has been estimated that it will cost $200,000 a year to lift all city workers' wages to a

 living wage. The ripple effect of this will cost an additional $245,000 a year. Despite dire predictions, a study in Baltimore found that a living wage policy increased the cost of supplier contracts by only 1.2 per cent, which was less than the rate of inflation. The reason was that more businesses bid on contracts. Also contrary to predictions, suppliers didn't reduce staff or work hours, but saw their profit margins decrease. Suppliers tend to absorb any cost increases up to 10 per cent. As Adam Smith in the Wealth of Nations said, "In reality high profits tend much more to raise the price of work than high wages." Clearly, increased competition for contracts lowered inflated profit margins. Since 1994, more than 125 cities in the United States, including most major cities, have adopted living wage policies. Over the last year, the City of Calgary held several feedback sessions with city suppliers. With few complaints from suppliers, city administration decided to recommend a living wage policy. At a city stakeholder session I attended, the owner of Alberta Janitorial Ltd. said he favoured a living wage policy because it would create a level playing field for suppliers. Such a policy would prevent bidders from undercutting him solely by paying the lowest possible wages. It's vital that every low wage worker benefit from a living wage. There should be no exemptions, period. Not for students, seniors or other part-time workers like janitors, because they're often the most in need of extra income. More than 30 per cent of workers earning less than $10 an hour live in low income households. In addition, a living wage must be indexed to inflation to ensure that it will continue to bring workers to the poverty line. In an April 10 Calgary Herald online poll, more than 60 per cent of respondents thought the city should have a living wage policy. Citizens, economists, small businesses and city administration have said yes to a living wage. With this, I would like to cha

llenge the mayor and the 14 city aldermen to also say yes on April 28. Adam Smith, the godfather of free market economics, in the Wealth of Nations said: "A man must always live by his work, and his wages must at least be sufficient to maintain him. They must even upon most occasions be somewhat more; otherwise it would be impossible for him to bring up a family." Thanks, Adam, I couldn't have said it better myself. David Wilson is part of the Calgary No Sweat Coalition, which in 2004 proposed that the city adopt an ethical procurement policy.

#### Long Beach City Council votes for a Living Wage.

Mathews, 2014, (“We need a ‘Living Wage’”, Orange County Register, February 16, 2014, L/N)

HIGHLIGHT: Lower taxes on small business and higher hourly pay liberates employers, eases burden on employees. The Long Beach City Council recently voted for a "Living Wage" of $13.26 per hour for Long Beach Airport and Convention Center workers, including their retail workers. Minimum wage has lost 20 percent of purchasing power since 1973, and President Barack Obama recently called for cities across the nation to raise the minimum wage, since Congress will not. Since 2009, the top 1 percent has captured 93 percent of the new income generated. Since 1973, the rich have gotten richer, the poor have gotten poorer and the American middle class has shrunk by 10 percent. In 1980, the average CEO was making 40 times the income of the average American worker. Today, the average CEO is making 400 times the income of the average worker. Poverty and hunger have increased significantly among low- and moderate-income Americans. We must commend the Long Beach City Council for trying to uplift the plight of these specific workers, by guaranteeing them a "living wage." If minimum wage had kept up with increased worker productivity since the 1970s, it would be $21 per hour. If it had kept up with inflation, it would be $16 per hour. However, such a steep, sudden increase may place an unbearable burden on small business. We know that U.S. small businesses employ two- thirds of American workers. That's why the local, state and federal governments must reduce the tax burden on small businesses as they create a living wage or raise minimum wage, for millions of poor and middle-class Americans. Governments must also reduce many of the burdensome, unnecessary, and unproductive regulations on small businesses, while keeping the necessary ones. This approach is the most balanced - the only one that will work to benefit American workers and entrepreneurs. Two prominent Founders of the United States of America, James Madison and Alexander Hamilton helped establish a "Commercial Republic." An important part of the business of America was going to be business. Another Founder, Benjamin Franklin, an amazing inventor and business entrepreneur, wanted other Americans to be able to do the same: create new ideas, new products, new services and new jobs so all could prosper. However, President Abraham Lincoln put the concept of entrepreneurship in perspective when he noted, "Labor is prior to, and independent of, capital. Capital is only the fruit of labor, and could never have existed if labor had not first existed. Labor is the superior of capital, and deserves much the higher consideration." Lincoln's vision, also the vision of Madison, Hamilton and Franklin, was complimentary and gave birth to the American Dream. Without adequately paid workers, the guarantee in the American Declaration of Independence of the Rights to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness would be empty. Without well-paid workers and a large middle class, there would be no one to help produce and buy the products that guarantee adequate profits for successful business entrepreneurs, and the quality of life for 99 percent of Americans would deteriorate. As will American democracy. When will our political and corporate leaders of today start re-applying these practical and ethical principles? The Long Beach City Council has lessened the burden on some workers. It, and other levels of American government, must now act to lighten the burden on other workers and to liberate the genius and energy of small businesses. Peter Mathews is a full-time political science professor at Cypress College and an adjunct professor of sociology at Long Beach City College.

#### Municipality Would Not Need to Continue in the Subsidization of Poverty

HALPIN, MICHAEL W., Attorney in Rock Island, IL UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS LAW REVIEW, 4/21/2009

The living wage movement rests upon the premise that workers who are employed full-time for a forty-hour week should earn enough to keep their families above the federal poverty line. More directly, proponents argue that businesses that benefit from public contracts have an obligation to provide a living wage because failure to do so results in an increased demand for public services such as food stamps, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and public health care assistance. Living wage supporters contend that businesses benefit from "municipal subsidization of poverty" because local government, not business, is essentially forced to cover the gap between wages and the poverty rate.  Under a living wage ordinance, a municipality need not pay a "double bill"- the contract for services up front and the back end hidden cost of public assistance for workers who cannot make ends meet on wages alone. Thus, the living wage movement seeks to persuade municipalities to adopt ordinances that mandate wage levels capable of keeping a working family at or slightly above the poverty line, usually by pegging the wage to that federal level. The targets of living wage efforts vary. Different living wage campaigns attempt to reach different employers, targeting companies that directly contract with the municipality, their subcontractors, companies receiving municipal tax breaks or other financial assistance, or, in the broadest case of wage regulation, any employer registered or licensed within the municipality's territorial jurisdiction.

### Societal Welfare

#### For a Society to be just, it must provide liveable wages

Levin-Waldman 2010 (Oren M. [Professor of Public Policy and Public Administration, School of Management, Metropolitan College of New York ] “Historical Studies: The Living Wage: Lessons from the History of Economic Thought” Industrial & Labor Relations Review Cornell University, April 2010, via Lexis Nexis)

The second basic idea, the capability argument, held that society needs to take into account whether or not wage workers earn a sufficient amount so that they are able to improve their abilities both as workers and as members of society. The failure to pay a living wage would threaten that capability, for workers not earning liveable wages would be unable to improve their abilities, and by extension, would not be able to develop those capabilities in their children. Society ostensibly wants its members not only to be effective producers but also to be effective citizens. Arguments of capability actually echoed Plato, Aristotle, and Aquinas. For Plato, marketplace competition was problematic because people would be so consumed by their own pursuit of wealth that they would be incapable of behaving in a virtuous manner. Aristotle, in contrast, defended private property and maintained that individuals needed incentives to care for property. Aquinas argued that prices charged had to be just. A wage pushing workers below subsistence level eroded their chances of being virtuous and were therefore unjust. Thus, a moral economy needed to be balanced against the market economy through the cultivation of virtue.

#### Consequentialism dictates that employers pay a higher wage

Levin-Waldman 2010 (Oren M. [Professor of Public Policy and Public Administration, School of Management, Metropolitan College of New York ] “Historical Studies: The Living Wage: Lessons from the History of Economic Thought” Industrial & Labor Relations Review Cornell University, April 2010, via Lexis Nexis)

The externality argument, the third basic idea, held that every action has consequences. To a certain extent, this argument rested on the popular assumption that workers simply lacked bargaining power because of the asymmetrical power balance between them and their employers. A worker taking a job at a lower wage, even assuming equal bargaining power, imposed a cost on other workers who would feel compelled to accept lower wages too. For Smith, individual decisions based on self-interest would always lead to the good of the community. At the same time, he also understood that if wages fell below subsistence, workers might not bother to work. Rather, they would resort to begging and crime, and thus impose a cost on society, which could be construed as a negative externality. Bentham went farther than Smith and suggested that it would actually be in employers' self-interest to pay higher wages to enhance their security.

#### Only by increasing Wage does Quality of Life increase.

Brustin, 2012 (Stacy [an Associate Professor of Law at The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law] “Child Support: Shifting the Financial Burden in Low-Income Families”, Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law & Policy (Fall 2012) via lexisnexis)

One obvious yet critical reality is that once employed, low-income wage earners need to be able to earn enough money to support their children. Studies have shown that increased employment without additional income does not pull families out of poverty or bring about significant change in children's wellbeing. A study from the Manpower De-velopment Research Corporation (MDRC) analyzing outcomes at eleven welfare reform programs determined that "[i]t was only in programs in which increased employment was accompanied by increased income that there were positive effects, such as increased school achievement for elementary-aged children." n274 The study concluded that it is critical to increase income for low-income wage earners, including ensuring that workers receive work support benefits such as tax credits and subsidies to which they are entitled

#### A Living Wage Provides More Opportunities for Youth

Flynn 2013 (Michael McCarthy, Newspaper Column, The Vancouver Province, CanWest MediaWorks Publication Inc., May 2, 2013)

The living wage allows parents to pay for necessities, support the healthy development of their children, stay out of poverty and participate in the social, civic and cultural lives of their communities. It's obvious that many families aren't earning a living wage and are struggling to cover the costs of basic necessities like food, rent and childcare. More than one-third of families with two children in Metro Vancouver earn annual incomes less than the Vancouver living wage. In fact, low wages are a key driver of child poverty in B.C., with almost half of poor children (43 per cent) living in families where at least one adult had a full-time, full-year job and many others lived in families with some paid work (part-year or part-time).

Flynn Continues…

As the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development has concluded, "failure to tackle the poverty and exclusion facing millions of families and their children is not only socially reprehensible, but it will also weigh heavily on countries' capacity to sustain economic growth in years to come."

#### People want a living wage

Frazer-Harrison, Alex, For Neighbours Be Local, The Calgary Herald (Alberta), November 21, 2013

There's a difference between minimum wage and the actual wage necessary to live free of poverty in Calgary. That's why a number of Calgary organizations and businesses are advocating for paying a living wage. As of Sept. 1, minimum wage in Alberta is $9.95 per hour; living wage is $13 per hour with benefits, $14.50 without, says Janet Eremenko, communications and community liaison with Vibrant Communities Calgary, which supports initiatives aimed at reducing poverty. "Our responsibility is to demonstrate to employers that (living wage) is doable," she says. "It can be a bit of a shock, but there are a lot of benefits to employers - reduced turnover, employees are more invested and they probably deliver better customer service." First Calgary Financial is one of many local companies that support a living wage. "We don't want our people to ever be in the situation where they have to make choices about the basic necessities of life," says Shelley Rathie, assistant vice president of human resources. Rathie says there's a mistaken assumption that every "professional" job in Calgary, such as those found in a bank, pays a high salary, but First Calgary tries to make sure everyone under its employ gets at least a living wage. "It's our IT (information technology) employees, commercial account managers - all the folks who do the back-end work that make everything happen, from estate reconciliation to the mailroom," she says. "We also encourage our contractors and suppliers to do this. It's part of the conversation we have with them." Progressive Alternatives Society of Calgary, which advocates for gainful employment for people with developmental disabilities, also supports the livingwage initiative.

#### Living wage policy implication empirically decreases crime rates.

Fernandez, Holman, Pepper ‘14, (Jose, Thomas, and John. Professor of Economics, University of Virginia – Medical Economist, Professor – Department of Economics University of Virigina "The Impact of Living‐Wage Ordinances on Urban Crime."Industrial Relations: A Journal of Economy and Society)

To summarize our primary findings, we observe that living wages have a modest negative effect on property-related crimes. The Model 5 estimated elasticities on property crimes suggest that a 1 percentage-point increase in living wage relative to the effective minimum wage results in a 0.05 to 0.15 percent drop in property-related crime. Likewise, the results found when using a simple living-wage-indicator variable in our most restrictive Model 5 suggests that a policy that caused a roughly 50 percent increase in the wages for some fraction of low-wage workers is associated with a 8 percent reduction in burglaries, a 6 percent reduction in car thefts, a 4 percent reduction in robberies, and a 3 percent reduction in larceny. At the same time, we find that the living wage has no discernable effect on crimes with weak pecuniary motives including murder, rape, and assault.

Further perspective on the estimated elasticities can be found by simulating the overall impact of the observed living wages on crime rates from 1990–2010. Focusing on cities that adopted a living wage, we use Model 4 (Table 4) to simulate the change in crime rates between 1990–2010 with and without a living wage. With the status quo living-wage rates, we find decreases in the robbery rate of 50 percent, in the burglary rate of 65 percent, and the MVT rate of 81 percent over this time period. Without the living wage, we estimate that robbery rates would have fallen 47 percent, the burglary rate by 60 percent, and the MVT rate by 73 percent. Thus, the estimates imply that over this decade living-wage ordinances reduced the robbery rate by 3 points (from 47 percent to 50 percent), the burglary rate by 5 points, and the MVT rate by 8 points.

#### Paying living wages is the only way to account for failures of public policy.

Flynn, 2014 (Michael McCarthy, The Metro Vancouver Living Wage for Families campaign organizer, “Paying a ' living wage' is good for everybody”, The Vancouver Province (British Columbia), April 29, LexisNexis)

Paying living wages is a key way to support the local economy as low income families spend almost all their money close to home. When members of the community have disposable income, there is money available to maintain and expand local economies. When people within the community are struggling to make ends meet they have little cash to contribute to the local economy. The existence of low-wage poverty, particularly linked to child poverty, is the height of unsustainability. People can't always make sustainable choices when they're in survival mode. Simply stated, a person earning too little to provide their basic needs does not have the option of choosing ethical purchases, organic options or fair-trade goods or may simply not have the time to research such matters because they are working two jobs. Though a $ 20.10-an-hour living-wage rate may be a surprise to some, it is important to remember that this rate reflects, in part, a failure of public policy to provide affordable and accessible services to support healthy families, such as universal childcare, affordable rental and social housing and affordable and convenient public transportation. We all need to encourage more firms to follow the example of the 36 organizations in Metro Vancouver, employing over 6,000 workers and covering many thousand more contracted service workers that have been certified as Living Wage Employers. These include SAP-Vancouver, Vancity, The Canadian Cancer Society (B. C. and Yukon Division), the City of New Westminster and Eclipse Awards, Small Business B. C.' s "Best Employer" in 2012 and 2014.

### Sustainable

#### LIVING WAGE LAWS HAVE SMALL EFFECTS ON MUNICIPAL BUDGETS

CHAPMAN AND THOMPSON, 2006 ( Researching at Washington state budget and policy center, Assistant Research Professor at Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts Amherst, he Economic Policy Institute, The Economic Impact of Living Wages)

A detailed survey of 20 cities found that the actual budgetary effect of living wage laws had been consistently overestimated by city administrators; actual costs tended to be less than one-tenth of 1% of the overall budget. Two separate studies of the Balitmore living wage found that city contract costs increased less than the rate of inflation. A study of the L.A. ordinance found no measurable effect on the city’s fiscal health. A study of living age ordinances in three New England cities found that contract costs only rose in one city. Multiple studies have shown that the bidding for municipal contracts remained competitive or even improved as a result of living wage ordinances.

#### LIVING WAGE CAUSES MINIMAL COST TO MUNICIPALITIES

CHAPMAN AND THOMPSON, 2006 ( Researching at Washington state budget and policy center, Assistant Research Professor at Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts Amherst, he Economic Policy Institute, The Economic Impact of Living Wages)

A number of studies have examined changes in municipal contract costs resulting from living wage laws. In general, the evidence from enacted ordinances, as well as the more carefully prepared prospective studies, shows that the overall cost of contracts does not rise significantly. In 1996, one year after the implementation of the first modern living wage ordinance in Baltimore, the Preamble Center for Public Policy published a study reviewing the fiscal costs of the ordinance. The Preamble study used data on city contracts and interviews with contractors and found that, in the first year under Baltimore’s living wage law, the real cost of city contracts actually decreased. Nominal contract costs rose 0.2%, but after adjusting for inflation costs declined by 2.4%. Expenses associated with implementing the law and monitoring contractors’ compliance were also shown to be minimal, “with the City allocating about 17 cents per person annually for this purpose” (Weisbrot and Sforza-Roderick 1996, 10).

#### LIVING WAGE CONTRACTS COSTS ARE MINIMAL IF NOT INEXISTENT WHEN ACCOUNTING FOR INFLATION

CHAPMAN AND THOMPSON, 2006 ( Researching at Washington state budget and policy center, Assistant Research Professor at Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts Amherst, he Economic Policy Institute, The Economic Impact of Living Wages)

In 1999, the Economic Policy Institute (EPI) published the third study of the Baltimore experience. Analyzing contracts that could be directly compared before and after the implementation of the ordinance, the EPI research associates from Johns Hopkins University found that the nominal contract costs for the city rose just 1.2%—lower than inflation during the same period—and concluded that the “budgetary impact of the living wage [in Baltimore] has, to date, been insignificant” (Niedt et al. 1999, 6-9). Despite the overall real decline in contract costs during the period under study, there was a range of results for different contract types. Some contracts experienced moderate price decreases, while others grew considerably. The overall price for the heavily affected janitorial contracts, for example, rose 16.6% in nominal terms, with specific contracts seeing price increases ranging from less than 1% to over 50%. The overall budgetary impact of these contracts, however, was negligible as cost increases in other contract areas were more modest. The EPI study’s overall conclusion was that “the widely voiced fear that [the living wage ordinance] implementation would place intolerable strains on the city’s budget have not yet materialized.”

#### LIVING WAGE CAUSES NEGLIGIBLE INCREASE TO OVERALL CONTRACT COSTS

CHAPMAN AND THOMPSON, 2006 ( Researching at Washington state budget and policy center, Assistant Research Professor at Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts Amherst, he Economic Policy Institute, The Economic Impact of Living Wages)

The research conducted since these early studies on Baltimore has tended to confirm the initial findings of negligible overall increases in contract costs. In 2003, Andrew Elmore surveyed administrators in 20 cities and counties that had adopted living wage ordinances that had been in force at least one year by late 2001. Each of these municipalities also had the “administrative capacity to produce cost impact estimates, formal internal evaluations, or other empirical assessments of the effects of their laws.” Elmore’s main finding was that in most municipalities “contract costs increased by less than 0.1% of the overall local budget in the years after a living wage law was adopted” (Elmore 2003, 2). Municipalities widely overestimated the costs of the living wage ordinances: the City of Berkeley, California, for example, projected the living wage would result in $479,425 in higher contract costs, but the actual increase turned out to be less than half that amount. Elmore reports that, despite the negligible overall costs of living wage ordinances, in each city there were a few contracts that did experience significant price increases. Predictably, these few contracts were labor intensive operations that employed a large number of workers concentrated at low wages, notably janitorial and security guard services

#### Living wage is a feasible action

Youds, Mike, The Daily News, March 10, 2011

The idea of a living wage sounds like a lofty goal some policy wonk thought up while overlooking everyday realities such as budgets, taxes and a struggling economy. Not at all, said Seth Klein, B.C. director of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. The CCPA is part of a coalition of groups campaigning for governments and corporations to at least consider the possibility of meeting living-wage objectives. "When it comes to eliminating child poverty in the province, this is where the rubber hits the road," Klein said Wednesday. "There is a wage/bill impact, but it's not as great as people think." A living wage, as distinguished from the minimum wage, is one that considers the cost of living for wage earners. With minimum wages -- particularly in B.C. with the lowest minimum in the country alongside the highest housing costs -- the cost of family shelter, food and clothing are not considered. Klein pointed to an online calculator -- livingwageforfamilies.ca -- that enables employers and families to determine a living wage for their communities. Arriving at that figure is a first step in considering the possibility. In Vancouver, a living wage is considered $18.10. By comparison, in Williams Lake and Cranbrook, it's just over $14 an hour. Klein hasn't crunched the numbers for Kamloops but believes the figure would probably be somewhere in between those two. For the most part, public-sector employers already match or exceed the living wage. As Klein guides private-sector employers through the calculation, many are surprised at how close they already come to the goal. The goal is not to have a living wage adopted in one fell swoop but to move the policy forward incrementally by engaging employers in the discussion. "Unlike the fight for higher minimum wages, the living wage campaign is just about slow progress as more and more government and private-sector employers get involved." New Westminster and Esquimalt have adopted living-wage policy. A Surrey councillor is

 on side to convince his political colleagues and the coalition is counting on having the issue as part of the November civic election in Vancouver, Klein said. In New West, they had to bring casual and contract workers into the equation. "The cost of getting them all there would be less than one per cent of the City budget. That's not inconsequential nor is it mammoth."

### Economy

#### Empirical evidence suggest that increasing wages helps the economy, and does not result in unemployment.

Weir, 2012 [Larry Hubich Erin [QUALIFICATIONS], "Minimum wage hike can benefit Sask. economy" The Star-Phonenix; August 31, 2012, L/N ]

Our province should instead aspire to lead with Canada's best minimum wage. Specifically, we propose phasing in a minimum wage of $11, which would match Nunavut as the highest of any province or territory. The government should then index it to inflation to help protect low-income earners from having their buying power eroded over time by Saskatchewan's rising cost of living. Some benefits of a fair minimum wage are obvious. It means more much-needed income in the hands of low-paid workers. Increasing the wages of workers at the lowest end of the income spectrum would also add to consumer spending in Saskatchewan, helping local businesses and other participants in the economy. More than any other group, low-income earners spend their money in their communities. For example, they are far less likely to make foreign investments or to travel abroad. Increasing Saskatchewan's minimum wage would bolster the provincial economy. Of course, opponents of a higher minimum wage argue that it would reduce employment. Ironically, the same conservative politicians and business lobbyists who characterize employment as being vulnerable to any improvement in the minimum wage often brag about the strength of Saskatchewan's job market and complain about "labour shortages." Better wages would help encourage more people to enter the workforce. Claims that minimum wages reduce employment have no empirical support. Economics professors from the universities of Massachusetts (Amherst), North Carolina (Chapel Hill) and California (Berkeley) recently compared adjacent U.S. counties along the borders of states with different minimum wages. Their conclusion, published in the November 2010 edition of The Review of Economics and Statistics, was that: "For cross-state contiguous counties, we find strong earnings effects and no employment effects of minimum wage increases." Page 1 In other words, boosting the minimum wage succeeded in raising pay without reducing employment, even when neighbouring jurisdictions maintained a lower minimum. We know from Saskatchewan's history that there is no contradiction between a strong minimum wage and a strong job market. During Allan Blakeney's premiership, this province enjoyed Canada's highest minimum wage and lowest unemployment rate. But even if raising the minimum wage reduced employers' demand for labour, it would still benefit employees. The vast majority of minimum-wage work is in areas such as fast food and retail, which have variable shifts and hours. If these employers want less labour, they cut back hours rather than lay off workers. In reality, a fastfood restaurant would likely require the same amount of labour since it could not substitute robots or other capital equipment for workers.

#### Enacting a living wage doesn't promote job loss

Brustin 2012 ( Stacy [Associate Professor of Law at The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law.  Supervising attorney in the General Practice Clinic of Columbus Community Legal Services. Commissioner on the D.C. Child Support Guideline Commission.] “Child Support: Shifting the Financial Burden in Low-Income Families” Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law & Policy Fall, 2012 via Lexis Nexis)

[\*46]  Proponents of minimum and living wage increases argue that such actions lead to increased job growth and stronger consumer spending. N290Opponents of such initiatives argue that such increases will lead to job losses n291which would work to the detriment of low-wage resident and nonresident parents. However, recent research suggests that minimum wage increases do not cause job losses,    n292even during periods of recession and high unemployment. N293These findings should spur legal services advocates and policy analysts focused on improving child support collection to develop broader strategies, including advocating for minimum wage increases.

#### Increasing Living Wage may lead more jobs.

Brustin, 2012 (Stacy [an Associate Professor of Law at The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law] “Child Support: Shifting the Financial Burden in Low-Income Families”, Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law & Policy (Fall 2012) via lexisnexis)

Proponents of minimum and living wage increases argue that such actions lead to increased job growth and stronger consumer spending. Opponents of such initiatives argue that such increases will lead to job losses which would work to the detriment of low-wage resident and nonresident parents. However, recent research suggests that minimum wage increases do not cause job losses, even during periods of recession and high unemployment. These findings should spur legal services advocates and policy analysts focused on improving child support collection to develop broader strategies, including advocating for minimum wage increases.

#### Raising Minimum Wage won’t result in job loss

Burke, 2011 (Debra, [\* BA 1977, MPA, JD 1982, University of Texas, Professor, Western Carolina University.] “Minimum Wage and Unemployment Rates: A Study of Contiguous Counties”, Gonzaga Law Review (2010-2011) via lexisnexis)

 Proponents contend that moderately increasing the minimum wage does not adversely affect employment rates, n54 and that the elasticity in the labor marketplace is sufficient "to absorb minimum wage increases." One economic model suggests that marginal workers are squeezed out of the market as high-rent workers ratchet up effort level, which increases the value of marginal product and reduces the size of the employment effect. Another  economist observes that raising the minimum wage to catch up with persistent inflation cannot possibly lower anyone's profit or destroy jobs. In fact, an increase can raise employment because a shrinking real minimum wage (as adjusted for inflation) "also shrinks aggregate demand as well as demand growth," particularly since it reasonably may be assumed that minimum wage workers consume everything they earn, so that when their real earnings decrease, there is some loss in aggregate demand. That "decline in demand tends to lower output and employment, whereas the fall in demand growth lowers output growth and raises the rate of unemployment." Moreover,  [\*671]  studies have found that increasing the minimum wage neither hindered the growth of small business nor precipitated business failures.

**Minimum Wage is not sufficient; Living Wage is necessary**

Burke, 2011 (Debra, [\* BA 1977, MPA, JD 1982, University of Texas, Professor, Western Carolina University.] “Minimum Wage and Unemployment Rates: A Study of Contiguous Counties”, Gonzaga Law Review (2010-2011) via lexisnexis)

 Recently, a living wage movement, solidified by the involvement of community and labor groups, has emerged at the local level, which champions a variety of employment empowerment issues beyond the minimum wage rate, including performance-based discharge, seniority and benefits, in addition to economic  [\*672]  inequality. n66 In other words, while the minimum wage rate is a necessary condition, it is no longer sufficient for economic sustainability. n67 The living wage movement, however, is not just defined by its economic impact goals for employment and poverty, but also on the goal of expanding participation in society, both politically and productively. n68 A recent study of the Los Angeles Living Wage Ordinance, ascertained that it had increased pay in nearly ten thousand jobs, primarily affecting low-income workers, with minimal employment reductions.

A minimum wage that raises with inflation

Burke, 2011(Debra, [\* BA 1977, MPA, JD 1982, University of Texas, Professor, Western Carolina University.] “Minimum Wage and Unemployment Rates: A Study of Contiguous Counties”, Gonzaga Law Review (2010-2011) via lexisnexis)

Recognizing how inflation can erode the real value of a working wage and desiring to insure that the lowest paid workers will have some semblance of financial stability, some minimum wage supporters propose the adoption of a system that automatically adjusts the rate as the cost of living increases by indexing it to a measure such as the Con-sumer Price Index. n61 In fact, the indexation of the federal minimum wage to some type of cost of living measure was debated in the 1970s and early 1980s as well as in the 1990s, under both Democratic and Republican administrations. n62 Policy arguments in favor of indexing the minimum wage to some formula, which might be based on cost of living adjustments, a percentage of average hourly earnings, or the Consumer Price Index, counsel that, for both employees and employers, increases would be regular, predictable, and tied to a neutral standard, instead of the political climate in Congress. cfasd

### Business

#### Establishing a Living Wage empirically improves satisfaction of worker and customer

Sonn, Gebreselassie 2010 (Paul K [Legal Co-Director, National Employment Law Project] Tsedeye [Staff Attorney, National Employment Law Project] “The Road to Responsible Contracting: Lessons from States and Cities for Ensuring That Federal Contracting Delivers Good Jobs and Quality Services” Berkeley Journal of Employment and Labor Law 2010 via Lexis Nexis)

Furthermore, a growing body of research demonstrates that in many industries, contractors that provide good wages and benefits and respect workplace laws deliver higher-quality services for government agencies and the taxpayers. For example, as discussed in greater detail below, studies of local living wage policies have found that better-paid workforces typically see decreased employee turnover (with corresponding savings in re-staffing costs), increased productivity, and improvements in the quality and reliability of contracted services for taxpayers. N13In a leading case study, the San Francisco International Airport saw annual turnover for security screeners plummet from 94.7 percent to 18.7 percent after it instituted a living wage policy. As a result, employers saved about $ 4,275 per employee in turnover costs and reported improvements in employee performance, employee morale and customer service. n14

#### Increasing pay empirically decreases turnover rates

Jacobs, Graham 2010 (Ken [Chair, UC Berkeley Labor Center] Dave [Research Associate, UC Berkeley Labor Center] “Labor Standards for School Cafeteria Workers, Turnover and Public Program Utilization” Berkeley Journal of Employment and Labor Law 2010 via LexisNexis)

In a study of the Los Angeles Living Wage Ordinance, holding all else constant, Fairris found a 35 percent reduction in turnover in firms that increased wages in response to the law, with an average increase of 23 percent, which results in an elasticity of 1.5. n33Reich, Hall and Jacobs analyzed the impact of minimum compensation standards for contractors at the San Francisco International Airport. N34Turnover in firms where wages increased by 10 percent or more fell by nearly 60 percent. N35Using data from the paper on specific classifications we calculate wage elasticities ranging from 0.3 for customer service agents to 2.9 for cabin cleaners. N36Howes studied the impact of wage increases for San Francisco homecare workers and found that a $ 1 increase in the average hourly wage, on a wage  [\*453]  of $ 8 an hour, increased the probability of the worker remaining in their job by 17 percent points, an elasticity of 1.4 (Table 3). n37

#### Lower wages results in Lower Quality

Sonn, Gebreselassie 2010 (Paul K [Legal Co-Director, National Employment Law Project] Tsedeye [Staff Attorney, National Employment Law Project] “The Road to Responsible Contracting: Lessons from States and Cities for Ensuring That Federal Contracting Delivers Good Jobs and Quality Services” Berkeley Journal of Employment and Labor Law 2010 via Lexis Nexis)

Within construction contracting, research indicates that high-road contractors that comply with workplace laws and provide quality training, wages, and benefits typically have better skilled and more productive workforces that produce higher-quality work and save taxpayers money. As early as the 1980s, an audit by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) of seventeen HUD sites found a "direct correlation between labor law violations and poor quality construction" on HUD projects, and found that the quality defects on these sites contributed to excessive maintenance costs. N15The HUD Inspector General concluded  [\*465]  that "This systematic cheating costs the public treasury hundreds of millions of dollars, reducing workers' earnings, and driving the honest contractor out of business or underground." n16More recently, a survey of New York City construction contractors by New York's Fiscal Policy Institute found that contractors with workplace law violations were more than five times as likely to have a low performance rating than contractors with no workplace law violations. N17Other studies have found that construction workers who receive higher wages and quality training are at least 20 percent more productive than less skilled and lower paid workers. N18Conversely, a study examining the impact of repealing prevailing wage laws in nine states found that the resulting drop in construction worker wages correlated with significant increases in cost overruns and delays on construction projects, and led to a workforce that was less skilled and less productive. N19

#### Living Wage Helps Businesses

Rosen – 2001 (Rachel I, 2nd Year Law Student at University of Pittsburgh Law School. “THE RISE AND POTENTIAL FALL OF LIVING WAGE LAWS: MISSOURI HOTEL AND MOTEL ASSOCIATION v. CITY OF ST. LOUIS”. University of Pittsburgh The Journal of Law and Commerce. Fall 2001)

A University of California at Berkeley study showed that increasing the pay of airport security workers at the San Francisco International Airport caused their turnover rates to plummet. Furthermore, the report states that job training and performance improved shortly after the wage increase was implemented, as did the labor-management climate.

#### Some Businesses are Voluntarily Paying Employers a Living Wage

Flynn and Klein (Michael McCarthy and Seth, News Paper Column, The Vancouver Province, CanWest MediaWorks Publication Inc., October 25th 2011)

Some business leaders are concerned about the living wage. They claim that it will negatively affect the private sector. Yet leading businesses around the world are voluntarily agreeing to become living-wage employers. Businesses like KPMG and LUSH in the U.K., and now Vancity credit union here in B.C. These employers commit to pay the living wage, not only to, their direct staff, but also to contracted staff in traditionally low-paying sectors. And here's the big surprise - they have all determined that doing so is good business practice. The call for a living wage has also been falsely labelled as a "union" demand. In fact, most people earning less than the living wage are not unionized. Moreover, the call for a living wage has come from a broad cross-section of organiza-tions - faith groups, parent groups, immigrant groups and community organizations such as the United Way of the Lower Mainland and the Health Officers Council of B.C. They understand that a living wage is key to ensuring healthy childhood development and community cohesion. Opponents of the living wage have claimed that small businesses will go bankrupt, that cities will face huge cost in-creases, and that even your granny will be negatively affected. Yet these attacks conveniently forget to mention that countless studies have shown that the cost to cities of living-wage policies are minimal - New Westminster's Living Wage Policy is costing less than a quarter of one per cent of its budget - or that families who earn living wages have more money in their pockets to spend in local businesses.

#### LIVING WAGE LAWS RESULT IN MINIMAL EMPLOYMENT LOSS

CHAPMAN AND THOMPSON, 2006 ( Researching at Washington state budget and policy center, Assistant Research Professor at Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts Amherst, he Economic Policy Institute, The Economic Impact of Living Wages)

Recent studies using original surveys in both Los Angeles and Boston have shown that the workers affected were mostly adults and mostly working full time. Both the Boston and Los Angeles studies also showed that most living was workers were in households struggling to meet  basic-needs budget. In baltimore and boston, empirical studies have found no evidence of diminished employment. In Los Angeles, surveys of workers and firms show that job losses affected just 1% of workers getting a raise. Two studies of San Francisco living wage policies found employment increased among airport workers and home health care workers. An exception to the general conclusion of research on living wages is a series of studies by David Neumark and Scott Adams that estimate relatively large wage gains and employment losses. The method of these studies has been severely criticized, and the findings discredited by many researchers.

#### LIVING WAGES HAVE INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY AND DECREASED TURNOVER AMONG AFFECTED FIRMS

CHAPMAN AND THOMPSON, 2006 ( Researching at Washington state budget and policy center, Assistant Research Professor at Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts Amherst, he Economic Policy Institute, The Economic Impact of Living Wages)

Multiple studies of Baltimore, Boston, Los Angeles, and San Francisco have shown that firms enjoy lower turnover among employees as a result of the living wage ordinance. A study of home-care workers in San Francisco found that turnover fell by 57% following implementation of a living wage policy. A study of the Los Angeles ordinance found that absenteeism declined, and the decrease in turnover offset 16% of the total cost of the living wage ordinance. A study of the San Francisco airport found that annual turnover among security screeners fell from 95% to 19%, as their hourly wage rose from $6.45 to $10.00 an hour.

#### Living Wage benefits the impoverished as well as large and small businesses:

Michael McCarthy Flynn, (The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia); January 17, 2014 Friday; LETTERS; Pg. A11; Michael McCarthy Flynn Living Wage for Families Campaign, First Call: BC Child &; Youth Advocacy Coalition)

Like many opponents of living wage proposals, the Fraser Institute uses dated, selective and flawed research to identify supposed negative effects of living wage policies. The truth is most international research on living wage polices demonstrates that they are an effective response that brings significant benefits to low wage workers. Many studies show that affected businesses are usually able to absorb cost increases related to a living wage policy through a combination of price and/or productivity increases and reduced turnover and/or redistribution within the organization, rather than resort to laying off staff, as the Fraser Institute suggests. Paying living wages is good for business.. Paying living wages is also good for communities. Wage increases for low wage earners are spent locally, often in small businesses. And living wage policies most definitely benefit the low waged and their families.

#### Affected businesses can absorb cost increases related to paying a living wage, and it is also good for businesses.

Flynn, 2014 (Michael McCarthy, The Metro Vancouver Living Wage for Families campaign organizer, “The benefits of a living wage”, January 16, LexisNexis)

Many studies show that affected businesses are usually able to absorb cost increases related to a living wage, through a combination of price and/or productivity increases, as well as reduced turnover and/or redistribution within the organization, rather than laying off staff as the Fraser Institute suggests. Paying living wages is good for business. Having a well-paid and motivated workforce is the most important investment any employer can make. Paying living wages is also good for communities, as wage increases for low-wage earners are spent locally. And living wage policies most definitely benefit lower-income workers and their families. Hundreds of thousands of low-wage workers in Canada are asking to join the ranks of those fortunate enough to be paid a living wage. We would all be better off if they did.

### Consumers

#### LIVING WAGE WILL CAUSE MINIMAL COST INCREASE TO CONSUMERS

CHAPMAN AND THOMPSON, 2006 ( Researching at Washington state budget and policy center, Assistant Research Professor at Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts Amherst, he Economic Policy Institute, The Economic Impact of Living Wages)

One of the most comprehensive, post-passage studies of a living wage ordinance followed the implementation of the living wage at the San Francisco International Airport (SFO). The SFO policy is almost universally applied to the airport workforce, directly affecting the wages of about 5,400 workers6 (Reich 2005, 119). The living wage policy is actually part of a series of policies called the Quality Standards Program (QSP) that includes a wage floor. Unlike most other living wage ordinances, the affected firms don’t provide services for a municipal government, but instead operate in a publicly owned facility. Most of the study, produced by Michael Reich and colleagues at UC Berkeley, concerns the employment and other economic impacts of the QSP (which will be discussed in the next section), and addresses the issue of cost increases faced by airport consumers. Reich shows that even if the entire employee compensation cost of the QSP was passed on to consumers, the effect would be relatively minor—an increase of $1.42 per passenger, an amount unlikely to deter people from using SFO (Reich 2005, 124). This hypothetical increase is substantially less than the $5 “per segment” security tax implemented following September 11th and the $4.50 departure tax proposed by the airport in 2001 to study options for a new runway8 (Reich 2003, 49

#### LIVING WAGE LEADS TO MINIMAL JOB LOSS

CHAPMAN AND THOMPSON, 2006 ( Researching at Washington state budget and policy center, Assistant Research Professor at Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts Amherst, he Economic Policy Institute, The Economic Impact of Living Wages)

In his post-passage study of the Boston living wage, Brenner found little evidence of job losses. There was no significant difference in changes in employment (total employment or full-time equivalent (FTE) employment) between contractors who were forced to raise wages because of the law and those that did not have to raise wages (Brenner 2005, 73). For example, affected firms added 22.1 FTE positions, while unaffected firms added 22.4.14 Also, the number of contract employees covered by the Boston ordinance increased more at firms that were forced to raise wages to comply than those that did not have to raise wages. Brenner’s study documents that while approximately 1,000 workers received wage gains, there was no evidence of reduced employment or hours.15

#### LIVING WAGE LEADS TO MINIMAL JOB LOSS

CHAPMAN AND THOMPSON, 2006 ( Researching at Washington state budget and policy center, Assistant Research Professor at Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts Amherst, he Economic Policy Institute, The Economic Impact of Living Wages)

The Los Angeles living wage ordinance directly raised the wages of an estimated 7,700 workers, according to the LAANE study16 (Fairris et al. 2005, 20). This extensive study, using original surveys of firms and workers, found that job loss occurred for less than 1% of the covered workers, or 1.4% of those receiving mandatory wage increases. On the firm side, less than one in five affected firms reported making any staffing changes due to the living wage.The analysis by Reich et al. of the living wage policy at the San Francisco Airport concluded that there was no evidence of employment losses due to the policy. Despite a recession-induced decline in airport activity by early 2001, SFO employment in jobs covered by the QSP rose by more than 15% between 1998 and 2001—the period in which the QSP was implemented (Reich 2005, 129). As Reich et al. report, “this increase is surprising given that over the same period, airport activity declined by 9% and overall employment in the San Francisco [metropolitan area] increased by only 1%.”18

#### LIVING WAGE CAN REDUCE HOSTILITY AGAINST IDENTY-GROUP EMPLOYMENT

Krieger, 2000 (Linda Hamilton, Professor of Law at University of Berkley, California, The Regents of the University of California on behalf of Berkeley Journal of Employment and Labor Law, 21 Berkeley J. Emp. & Lab. L. 1,Foreword--Backlash Against the ADA: Interdisciplinary Perspectives and Implications for Social Justice Strategies)

In *Backlash, the Political Economy, and Structural Exclusion*, Marta Russell argues that public hostility toward the ADA is driven in large measure by the high levels of job instability and worker displacement characterizing American labor markets. These, she contends, breed insecurity, fear, and resentment toward employment protections extended to members of disadvantaged groups. Russell suggests that hostility toward identity group-based employment protections will persist until employment at a **living wage** and access to health care are treated as fundamental rights attending membership in society, rather than as incidents of increasingly unstable employment status

### Families

#### Low Wage Parents can’t support their children

Brustin, 2012 (Stacy [an Associate Professor of Law at The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law] “Child Support: Shifting the Financial Burden in Low-Income Families”, Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law & Policy (Fall 2012) via lexisnexis)

Policymakers tout child support as an important ingredient in the fight to lift America's low-income families out of poverty.  The reality, however, is that millions of low-wage earning parents are unable to support themselves, let alone their children, with their limited income. Child support guidelines account for this reality through the use of self-support reserves and low-income adjustments. Nonresident parents  who earn below a certain amount, generally pegged to the federal poverty guideline, are deemed unable to provide anything but the most minimal amount of child support--typically $ 50 per month or less. An unintended consequence of these well-intentioned provisions is that low-wage-earning resident parents are left to bear the financial responsibility for children. Although some of these res-ident parents receive public assistance, child care subsidies or tax credits, to reduce the financial burden, many do not. This shifting of financial burden undermines the basic child support principle that both parents  [\*2]  should share in the financial responsibility of raising their children and jeopardizes the needs of children.

#### Governments don’t financially assist Low-income Parents enough

Brustin, 2012 (Stacy [an Associate Professor of Law at The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law] “Child Support: Shifting the Financial Burden in Low-Income Families”, Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law & Policy (Fall 2012) via lexisnexis)

Perhaps more significantly, resident parents who have low-wage jobs typically do not qualify for public assistance payments. An overwhelming majority of the parents who have child support cases brought by government child sup-port agencies across the country do not receive TANF.  They are parents who have either never received TANF or who formerly received benefits but no longer do. They may qualify for food stamps, Medicaid, and earned income tax credits, but these parents must spend a large proportion of their income attempting to meet  [\*5]  the basic needs of their children.  These families face extraordinary hardship and, in situations where the nonresident parent is low-income, receive little or no child support once self-support reserves and low-income adjustments are applied.

Without Gov. Assistance Low-income parents won’t be able to provide**.**

Brustin, 2012 (Stacy [an Associate Professor of Law at The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law] “Child Support: Shifting the Financial Burden in Low-Income Families”, Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law & Policy (Fall 2012) via lexisnexis)

Parents will not be able to take full responsibility for supporting their children until they earn enough or receive financial supports to meet both individual and family subsistence needs. Reforming child support guidelines and creating a system that treats the subsistence needs of low-income parents equally is a short-term remedy, but it does little to address the much more significant reality: low-income parents, the majority of whom are employed, do not earn enough to financially support their families.  n25 With the onset of the recession and  [\*6]  one of the most significant surges in unemployment in decades, these struggles have only intensified.

#### Living wages allow parents to pay for necessities, but more than 1/3 of families don’t make a living wage.

Flynn, 2013 (Michael McCarthy, The Metro Vancouver Living Wage for Families campaign organizer, “New government should promote a living wage”, May 2, LexisNexis)

A living wage is the hourly wage rate at which a family with two fulltime earners and two young children (the most common family unit in B.C.) can meet its basic needs once government taxes, credits, deductions and subsidies have been taken into account. The living wage allows parents to pay for necessities, support the healthy development of their children, stay out of poverty and participate in the social, civic and cultural lives of their communities. It's obvious that many families aren't earning a living wage and are struggling to cover the costs of basic necessities like food, rent and childcare. More than one-third of families with two children in Metro Vancouver earn annual incomes less than the Vancouver living wage. In fact, low wages are a key driver of child poverty in B.C., with almost half of poor children (43 per cent) living in families where at least one adult had a full-time, full-year job and many others lived in families with some paid work (part-year or part-time).

### Globalization

#### Living Wages through fair trade helps modernize third world countries

Belford, 2010 [Terrence, "A small price to modernize the Third World; The sale of goods from developing countries provides a living wage to the poor and the creation of infrastructure" Vancouver Sun, August 26]

BC Casa sells its roasted coffee for $12 a pound, $2 of which goes to the growers, and $6.50 to the co-op, Stewart says. In contrast, in villages where there is no fair trade co-op, middlemen -- known as coyotes -- pay as little as 30 cents a pound and villages get nothing. "Just being there has had a ripple effect, though," Stewart says. "Now when the coyotes can't get coffee at 30 cents a pound, they are being forced to match the price we pay." Fair trade benefits not just growers but entire communities, says Michael Zelmer, director of communications at TransFair Canada, the national certification organization for fair-trade products. He highlights Vinasol, a nonprofit association of grape growers in Argentina. Its grapes go to the Soluna brand of wine sold in Canada. Fair-trade premiums have helped provide scholarships for workers' children, paid for a bus to take 126 children to school, and built or renovated homes for 30 workers and a new cafeteria. The premiums have also been used to hire health care workers and buy the organization computers to modernize its business practices. In Sri Lanka, the Small Organic Farmers Association has used fair-trade money paid for the tea spices and vegetables its members grow to provide tea plants and fertilizers to its members to help increase farm yields. The money has paid for a community room for village meetings, funded a scholarship program for farmers' children, provided training and technical assistance to farmers, ensured safe drinking water and purchased 40 cows to supply milk for village children. Nor is the fair-trade movement restricted to developing countries. Its reach now extends into Canada. In Saskatchewan, 70 certified organic family farms formed the Farmers Direct Cooperative and recently gained fair-trade certification for the wheat, flax, le ntils and beans it sells wholesale to manufacturers and distributors. Fair trade may well be an idea whose time has come. "If consumers want the

 food system in Canada to become more ethical, they need to support independent and family farms," says Jason Freemen, the co-op's manager. "If they do, then big companies will have no choice but to follow."

#### Foreigners Workers in U.S. with low wage

Durkin, 2013 (Nicole, [J.D. from The George Washington University Law School] “ All Work and Not Enough Pay”, The George Washington Law Review, (July 2013) via Lexisnexis)

 "Your Work and Travel Program is sure to be a summer you will never forget!" So said the website for the Council for Educational Travel USA ("CETUSA"), formerly a designated sponsor of the Department of State's Summer Work Travel ("SWT") program, which allows foreign students to live and work in the United States for up to four months during their official summer breaks. Indeed, the more than 400 CETUSA-sponsored students who spent their SWT programs at a Hershey's distribution center in Pennsylvania in the summer of 2011 are unlikely to forget their experi-ence. The students performed heavy labor and worked grueling hours, earning only between $ 1.00 and $ 3.50 per hour after CETUSA's deductions. The students went unnoticed to government agencies and the American public until a group of more than 300 of them reached out to the National Guestworker Alliance ("NGA") and organized a widely publicized protest of their wages and working conditions.

#### Living Wage Combats Outsourcing and Poverty

Harvey 2003 (Rachel; B.S.F.S. in Foreign Service, Georgetown University Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service; J.D., expected in December 2003, University of Florida Fredric G. Levin College of Law.; “LABOR LAW: CHALLENGES TO THE LIVING WAGE MOVEMENT: OBSTACLES IN A PATH TO ECONOMIC JUSTICE” University of Florida Journal of Law & Public Policy)

The [living wage] movement responds to the trend of outsourcing, in which governments contract out government services to private firms. The private firms pay lower wages in order to have the lowest bid and win the government contract.  Thus, by contracting out work to private companies, the city saves money at the expense of low-wage workers. Living wage advocates reason that, because low-wage workers' wages then fall so far below the poverty level, these workers must turn to the government for support. However, with a living wage these workers could have supported themselves. The living wage campaign aims to halt this process and prevent workers from living in poverty and having to rely on government programs in order to survive.

#### Russian bank retains high quality workers through a living wage.

Harrington, 2014 (Jeff, Tampa Bay Times Staff Writter, “C1 Bank adopts $14 'living wage rate'”, Tampa Bay Times, March 27, 2014, L/N)

As a national debate over raising the minimum wage rages on, a St. Petersburg-based community bank has decided to act on its own. C1 Bank said Wednesday that it's establishing a minimum "living wage rate" of $14 per hour for its full-time employees. The change will increase the pay of 27 of its 217 employees. Increases will range from 1 percent to 30 percent for the affected workers, primarily newer, front-line employees at some of its 27 branches and downtown St. Petersburg headquarters. CEO Trevor Burgess said his incentive was two-fold: to help recruit the best employees and to reflect the bank's core values. "We thought it was the ethical thing to do," he said. "We wanted to make sure the people who work for us are benefiting from our success and can earn a living wage." Moreover, it makes good business sense in recruiting and retaining the highest-quality workers, Burgess said. "We really think it's an investment that will pay back in spades." A living wage is typically defined as the wage rate required to meet minimum living standards within a community. It's usually higher than the state or federal minimum wage. Florida's current minimum wage is $7.93 an hour. In researching the hourly rate, C1 executives wanted to get wages close to $30,000 a year and also raise the rate high enough to impact a significant number of employees. They also used MIT's living wage calculator, the results of which vary depending on family size, so C1 used a "blended approximation" of family size to come up with a number. Burgess said he and C1 Bank director Marcelo Lima had been discussing the issue for months, and it moved to the front burner in February after clothing retailer Gap announced it was hiking its in-house minimum wage to $10 an hour. C1's higher wage rate goes into effect Tuesday . Burgess declined to say how much the move would cost the bank. Breaking-news, top-news, top-business, economy, consumer, politics.

Raising wages is a pro-business move.

Borris, 2014, (David, “Living wages would boost into economy”, Chicago Daily Herald, February 22, 2014, L/N)

A Feb. 12 letter in the Daily Herald criticized Sen. Dick Durbin, President Obama and Gov. Pat Quinn for supporting a minimum-wage increase, claiming that doing so will be bad for business. I'm the owner of a thriving small business with 25 full-time and 80 part-time and seasonal workers. I pay all of my employees a living wage, and I'm here to tell you that letter writer is wrong. The current bill in Congress will raise the minimum wage to $10.10 an hour over two years and then adjust to inflation. If enacted, it will add a much-needed boost to GDP of over $22 billion in the next two years. That is money that could have been spent at Sears, Dominicks, and yes, even Sam's Club -- as well as my local business. A century ago, the great titan of American business Henry Ford doubled his workers' wages. He did this for two reasons: 1) high turnover was affecting his product's quality, and, 2) he wanted his employees to be able to buy the product they spent their day making. Ford understood a basic business truth -- that any healthy economy needs to have a sustainable amount of money running through it in order to grow. I agree. I have owned Hel's Kitchen Catering for 29 years. Obviously we need to post profits, but my starting wage of $10 an hour doesn't keep that from happening. Smart employers understand that paying a fair wage has allows us to keep good employees and cut down on costly turnover; some of my people have been with me the better part of two decades. Raising the minimum wage is a pro-business move. We could use more leadership like that at all levels of government. David Borris Northbrook Question of trust on Brainerd plan I attended the Brainerd informational meeting held on Feb. 11, and asked Mayor Weppler if the "Savebrainerd.org" sign was a violation of the internal revenue code's prohibition against political campaigning by a section 501(c)(3) organization. He said that he believed it was a violation and had already asked the organization to take down

 the sign. It should have taken about five minutes to take down the sign. Yet, almost a week later, the sign still remained. As a taxpayer, I am being asked to provide money to build an $11.5 million palace (really $14.9 million with interest), and the group that will have control cannot even play fair and take down a sign? What happens when they can't manage the building? I have no trust in this initiative or the organization behind it. Vote no. Pat Capaccio Libertyville Brainerd effort had its chance I read with great interest the discussion regarding the referendum for saving the Brainerd Building. To be clear, the only reason the village got involved with the saving of the Brainerd facility was to facilitate the agreement between the Brainerd Foundation and District 128. From the beginning, I was a strong supporter for saving this facility. However, I was also extremely clear that this effort was to be by the foundation. In no way was the agreement with District 128 signed with the intention of the village being responsible for operating or maintaining this facility. There was never to be a referendum for the residents of Libertyville to repair or operate this facility. If the residents wanted to save this building, they would do so with their own donations to the foundation. They were never to be forced to pay for this facility once again through a tax increase. Since the original agreement was made, the foundation was not able to raise the funds as required by the agreement. Instead of complying with the agreement, an extension was given. The interesting part of this extension is that it was granted while the mayor who was and still is according to state records, the registered agent for the Brainerd Foundation. If you take away the fact that the foundation still can't raise the funds and that the gymnasium is being torn down regardless, what is left is a huge conflict of interest and a lot of questionable ethics. We have already paid for this building several

 times over. The foundation had their chance to save it with private dollars and failed miserably. I urge residents to vote no on the referendum and prevent another unnecessary tax increase. Jeffrey Harger Libertyville Candidate's stance on term limits a plus Bruce Rauner is a very successful business executive who is running for governor of Illinois and I am supporting him in his candidacy for two reasons. First, he wants to push for the introduction of term limits in the state and see if through until it becomes law. This is a long overdue reform that will create political integrity in a state notorious for a lack of anything resembling integrity. Second, as a successful businessman, it is hoped that he will be able to successfully address the financial crisis that his state has faced for so long. These are noble goals and I will support Mr. Rauner in his quest. I sincerely hope that all who ready this will do the same. Keep in mind that this will be a tough process to see that these reforms are put in place in a state that is ranked the 50th worst state in the country on almost all levels. Rauner represents the best hope, indeed perhaps "the last, best hope" for a state in desperate need of leadership and reform. I encourage all of you to reject the other candidate options and vote for Bruce Rauner. Chuck Barr St. Charles Rauner wrong about government aid The letter in the Feb. 10 Daily Herald praising the virtues of Republican candidate Bruce Rauner was exemplary of the self-centered views of that party. But the people who vote should remember that Rauner's first inclination was to lower the hourly minimum wage of $7.25 per hour. That's right, lower it! Wow, what a guy. But on the other hand, perhaps you can't blame those who aspire to lowering the minimum wage. Everyone knows people who work for the minimum wage are lazy, shiftless, lacking ambition of any kind, and are just a drag on those who work hard, try to advance and make do without government assistance

 of any kind, and actually those leaders are just trying to raise the taxes of truly hardworking, patriotic, old-school go-getters like us. They're just a part of our Mitt Romney's 47 percent of the population, commonly known as the "takers." Really, think how much our taxes might go down if we could just eliminate the minimum wage, food stamps, aid to education, unemployment compensation -- perish the thought! Oh, if only we could privatize Social Security, do away with medical assistance of any kind, and prohibit unions in any form. We'd all vote for that, wouldn't we? Go get 'em, Bruce. See you in the "also rans." Frank Sears Buffalo Grove

#### Unison urges colleges to count the cost of living

Exley, Stephen, The Times Educational Supplement, November 9, 2012

While colleges across the country have announced hundreds of redundancies in recent months, this week there was a rare piece of good news for FE employees: public sector union Unison revealed that 58 per cent of colleges have agreed to pay all employees the living wage. This means that about 1,000 workers have seen their pay rise to the living wage of £ 8.30 an hour in London and £ 7.20 in the rest of the UK. These figures have been calculated by the Centre for Research in Social Policy as being the minimum income necessary for a worker to meet their basic needs, and are significantly higher than the minimum wage that employers are legally obliged to offer - currently £ 6.19 an hour for over-21s. Jon Richards, Unison's head of education, told TES that one in five of the colleges that had signed up to its living wage campaign had handed pay rises to their lowest-paid employees as a result. The campaign has been strongly supported by Labour MP David Miliband and the National Union of Students. This week it was also announced that the living wage is to be increased by 25p an hour because of the increase in living costs over the past 12 months. "The new rates will help families to make ends meet at a time when the costs of basics such as food and fuel have been rising," said Unison general secretary Dave Prentis. "The challenge now is to close the gap between the national minimum wage and the living wage. "Through the work of just our FE campaign alone, more than 1,000 workers and their families have been pulled out of the misery that is poverty pay. This can change lives. For some parents it means they don't have to take a second job and will have more time to spend with their children." Emma Mason, director of employment policy and services at the Association of Colleges, welcomed the "positive and consultative approach" taken by Mr Miliband and the union, but warned that tight budgets meant not all colleges would be able to increase their wage bill. "We are pleased t

hat some colleges are able to afford to pay the living wage and have received positive feedback from them about the effect it has had," she said. "However, colleges, like all of the public sector, are managing significant reductions in their funding and some are unable at this time to pay the living wage."

# Negative

## Negative Constructive

### Top of Case

#### **Renowned 20th Century Inventor and Visionary Buckminster Fuller said**

In 1970 (R. Buckminster [renowned 20th century inventor and visionary; continued influence upon generations of designers, architects, scientists and artists working to create a more sustainable planet; American neo-futuristic architect, systems theorist, author, designer and inventor] “The New York Magazine Environmental Teach-In” Ed. Elizabeth Barlow, *New York Magazine*, March 30, 1970; p.30)

We must do away with the absolutely specious notion that everybody has to earn a living. It is a fact today that one in ten thousand of us can make a technological breakthrough capable of supporting all the rest. The youth of today are absolutely right in recognizing this nonsense of earning a living. We keep inventing jobs because of this false idea that everybody has to be employed at some kind of drudgery because, according to Malthusian-Darwinian theory, he must justify his right to exist. So we have inspectors of inspectors and people making instruments for inspectors to inspect inspectors. The true business of people should be to go back to school and think about whatever it was they were thinking about before somebody came along and told them they had to earn a living.

#### **It is because I agree with Buckminster Fuller that I negate the resolution: Just governments ought to require employers to pay a living wage.**

#### For the purposes of this debate, I will accept my opponents value and criterion. I will argue that I achieve their framework much more effectively than they do.

#### The thesis of my argument will be that requiring employers to pay a living wage continues to place the burden of the social world on the private sector, continuing to endorse the fallacy of the private sphere. In today’s debate, I will support the idea that a just government would provide for its citizens, not through requiring employers to pay their employees, but instead, through providing directly for its citizens.

### Observation One: “Ensuring Employers Pay” is a Mask for Exploitation

#### Sub-Point A: Making employees dependent on their employers is a method of ensuring ideological compliance with the system.

McNally, 96 (David [Professor of Political Science @ York University], "Language, History, and Class Struggle," in "In Defense of History: Marxism and the Postmodern Agenda," Ed. by E. Meiskins Wood & John Foster, p.36-38)

The contradictory character of working class consciousness is a highly dynamic phenomenon. To begin with, there is no homogeneous consciousness within the working class. Among a single group of workers, some will veer towards near-total acceptance of the ideas of bosses, supervisors, heads of state, and so on, while others will tends towards an almost thorough-going opposition to such figures. Between these two positions one will find the majority of workers. But their consciousness will not be fixed. Great events—mass strikes and demonstrations, union drives, and so on—coupled with the organized propagation of oppositional ideas can contribute to significant radicalizations; while defeats, setbacks, and the decline of oppositional discourse can have a deeply conservatizing effect. But whatever the existing state of affairs at any one point in time, Gramsci is clear that the contradictory nature of working class consciousness cannot be eliminated. It is an intrinsic feature of capitalist society that the ruling class tries to win ideological consent to its rule (and that such efforts are usually successful to a significant extent), and that the life experiences of workers, their resistance to exploitation and domination, generate practices which do not fit with the dominant ideas and which, in fact, entail an implicit worldview that challenges these ideas. Indeed, one of the crucial functions of a revolutionary socialist party for Gramsci is that it try to draw out and systematize the worldview which is implicit in such practices of resistance. This view enables Gramsci to approach the question of revolutionary politics in terms of the contradictions which pervade the experience, activity, and language of oppressed members of society. Revolutionary politics begins, he argues, with the common sense of the working class. This common sense contains all these, largely implicit, oppositional attitudes. And since socialism, as Marx insisted, is the self-emancipation of the working class, revolutionary ideas cannot be some foreign discourse injected into the working class movement. On the contrary, the connection between revolutionary ideas and the working class must be organic; it is the task of Marxists to show that socialism is the logical and consistent outgrowth of practices of working class resistance. The revolutionary party must thus be a living part of the working class movement; it must share their experiences and speak their language. At the same time, it must also be the force that generalizes experiences of opposition into an increasingly systematic program, the force which challenges the traditional and dominant ideas inherited by workers (patriotism, sexism, racism, etc.) by showing how they conflict with the interests and aspirations implicit in resistance to exploitation and oppression. Contrary to certain idealist renderings of Gramsci which have made the rounds in recent years, he is insistent that the building of such a mass counter-hegemonic movement does not take place on a strictly cultural plane or as some rarefied intellectual process of ideological dissent. Counter-hegemonies, he argues, are created through political struggle, movements in which economic resistance and ideological combat go hand in hand. For the oppressed, in other words, "critical understanding of self takes place therefore through a struggle of political hegemonies'" (p. 333). And "political parties," he insists, operate as the "historical laboratory" of counter-hegemonic worldviews; they are "the crucibles where the unification of theory and practice, understood as a real historical process, takes place" (p. 335).

#### Sub-Point B: Forcing private employers to pay a “living wage” is precisely how capitalism masks itself and perpetuates its violence.

Deleuze and Guattari, 72 (Gilles Deleuze [Professor of Philosophy at the University of Paris] AND Felix Guattari [Activist and Psychoanalyst, worked at La Borde]. Anti-Oedipus 1972 p. 373)

"There is not one of these aspects---not the least operation, the least industrial or financial mechanism--that does not reveal the insanity of the capitalist machine and the pathological character of its rationality: not at all a false rationality, but a true rationality of this pathological state, this insanity, "the machine works too, believe me". The capitalist machine does not run the risk of becoming mad, it is mad from one end to the other and from the beginning, and this is the source of its rationality, Marx's black humor, the source of Capital, is his fascination with such a machine: how it came to be assembled, on what foundation of decoding and deterritorialization; how it works, always more decoded, always more deterritorialized; how its operation grows more relentless with the development of the axiomatic, the combination of the flows; how it produces the terrible single class of gray gentlemen who keep up the machine; how it does not run the risk of dying all alone, but rather of making us die, by provoking to the very end investments of desire that do not even go by way of a deceptive and subjective ideology, and that lead us to cry out to the very end, Long live capital in all its reality, in all its objective dissimulation! Except in ideology, there has never been a humane, liberal, paternal, etc., capitalism. Capitalism is defined by a cruelty having no parallel in the despotic regime of terror. Wage increases and improvements in the standard of living are realities, but realities that derive from a given supplementary axiom that capitalism is always capable of adding to its axiomatic in terms of an enlargement of its limits: let's create the New Deal; let's cultivate and recognize strong unions; let's promote participation, the single class; let's take a step toward Russia, which is taking so many toward us; etc. But within the enlarged reality that conditions these islands, exploitation grows constantly harsher, lack is arranged in the most scientific of ways, final solutions of the "Jewish problem" variety are prepared down to the last detail, and the Third World is organized as an integral part of capitalism. the reproduction of the interior limits of capitalism on an always wider scale has several consequences: it permits increases and improvements of standards at the center, it displaces the harshest forms of exploitation from the center to the periphery, but also multiplies enclaves of overpopulation in the center itself, and easily tolerates the so-called socialist formations. (It is not kibbutz-style socialism that troubles the Zionist state, just as it is not Russian socialism that troubles world capitalism.) There is no metaphor here: the factories are prisons, they do not resemble prisons, they are prisons.

### Contention Two: A Just Governments Provides an Income to All

#### Sub-Point A: Paying those lucky enough to be employed a living wage does not go far enough. Only providing guaranteed employment or a guaranteed minimum income can secure dignity for all.

King Jr., 1967 (Martin Luther [Pastor, Civil Right Figure] *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community* Beacon Press; New York. P. 178)

But dignity is also corroded by poverty no matter how poetically we invest the humble with simple graces and charm. No worker can maintain his morale or sustain his spirit if in the market place his capacities are declared to be worthless to society. The Negro is no longer ashamed that he is black— he should never have permitted himself to accept the absurd concept that white is more virtuous than black, but he was crushed by the propaganda that superiority had a pale countenance. That day is fast coming to an end. However, in his search for human dignity he is handicapped by the stigma of poverty in a society whose measure of value revolves about money. If the society changes its concepts by placing the responsibility on its system, not on the individual, and guarantees secure employment or a minimum income, dignity will come within reach of all. For Negroes, the goal on which they have placed the highest priority, which the emancipation from slavery was intended to assure, will finally be attained. Meanwhile, any discussion of the problems of inequality is meaningless unless a time dimension is given to programs for their solution. The Great Society is only a phrase so long as no date is set for the achievement of its promises. It is disquieting to note that President Johnson in his message to Congress on the Demonstration Cities program stated, “If we can begin now the planning from which action will flow, the hopes of the twentieth century will become the realities of the twenty-first.” On this timetable many Negroes not yet born and virtually all now alive will not experience equality. The virtue of patience will become a vice if it accepts so leisurely an approach to social change.

#### Sub-Point B: In order to solve our problems, we must deal with global poverty. We have the resources to deal with these problems, we just lack the will.

King Jr., 1967 (Martin Luther [Pastor, Civil Right Figure] *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community* Beacon Press; New York. P. 187-9)

Another grave problem that must be solved if we are to live creatively in our world house is that of poverty on an international scale. Like a monstrous octopus, it stretches its choking, prehensile tentacles into lands and villages all over the world. Two-thirds of the peoples of the world go to bed hungry at night. They are undernourished, ill-housed and shabbily clad. Many of them have no houses or beds to sleep in. Their only beds are the sidewalks of the cities and the dusty roads of the villages. Most of these poverty-stricken children of God have never seen a physician or a dentist. There is nothing new about poverty. What is new, however, is that we now have the resources to get rid of it. Not too many years ago, Dr. Kirtley Mather, a Harvard geologist, wrote a book entitled *Enough and to Spare.* He set forth the basic theme that famine is wholly unnecessary in the modern world. Today, therefore, the question on the agenda must read: why should there be hunger and privation in any land, in any city, at any table, when man has the resources and the scientific know-how to provide all mankind with the basic necessities of life? Even deserts can be irrigated and topsoil can be replaced. We cannot complain of a lack of land, for there are 25 million square miles of tillable land on earth, of which we are using less than seven million. We have amazing knowledge of vitamins, nutrition, the chemistry of food and the versatility of atoms. There is no deficit in human resources; the deficit is in human will. This does not mean that we can overlook the enormous acceleration in the rate of growth of the world’s population. The population explosion is very real, and it must be faced squarely if we are to avoid, in centuries ahead, a “standing room only” situation on these earthly shores. Most of the large undeveloped nations in the world today are confronted with the problem of excess population in relation to resources. But even this problem will be greatly diminished by wiping out poverty. When people see more opportunities for better education and greater economic security, they begin to consider whether a smaller family might not be better for themselves and for their children. In other words, I doubt that there can be a stabilization of the population without a prior stabilization of economic resources. The time has come for an all-out world war against poverty. The rich nations must use their vast resources of wealth to develop the underdeveloped, school the unschooled and feed the unfed. The well-off and the secure have too often become indifferent and oblivious to the poverty and deprivation in their midst. The poor in our countries have been shut out of our minds, and driven from the mainstream of our societies, because we have allowed them to become invisible. Ultimately a great nation is a compassionate nation. No individual or nation can be great if it does not have a concern for “the least of these.”

#### Sub-Point C: Guaranteed income for all humans opens up production, allowing humanity to develop rapidly.

Fuller, 1969 (R. Buckminster [renowned 20th century inventor and visionary; continued influence upon generations of designers, architects, scientists and artists working to create a more sustainable planet; American neo-futuristic architect, systems theorist, author, designer and inventor]; *An Operating Manual for Spaceship Earth*; Southern Illinois University Press: Carbondale, IL. P. 40-1)

Our labor world and all salaried workers, including school teachers and college professors, are now, at least subconsciously if not consciously, afraid that automation will take away their jobs. They are afraid they won’t be able to do what is called "earning a living," which is short for earning the right to live. This term implies that normally we are supposed to die prematurely and that it is abnormal to be able to earn a living. It is paradoxical that only the abnormal or exceptional are entitled to prosper. Yesterday the term even inferred that success was so very abnormal that only divinely ordained kings and nobles were entitled to eat fairly regularly. It is easy to demonstrate to those who will take the time and the trouble to unbias their thoughts that automation swiftly can multiply the physical energy part of wealth much more rapidly and profusely than can man’s muscle and brain-reflexed-manually-controlled production. On the other hand humans alone can foresee, integrate, and anticipate the new tasks to be done by the progressively automated wealth-producing machinery. To take advantage of the fabulous magnitudes of real wealth waiting to be employed intelligently by humans and unblock automation’s postponement by organized labor we must give each human who is or becomes unemployed a life fellowship in research and development or in just simple thinking. Man must be able to dare to think truthfully and to act accordingly without fear of losing his franchise to live. The use of mind fellowships will permit humans comprehensively to expand and accelerate scientific exploration and experimental prototype development. For every 100,OOO employed in research and development, or just plain thinking, one probably will make a breakthrough that will more than pay for the other 99,999 fellowships. Thus, production will no longer be impeded by humans trying to do what machines can do better. Contrariwise, omni-automated and inanimately powered production will unleash humanity’s unique capability-its metaphysical capability. Historically speaking, these steps will be taken within the next decade. There is no doubt about it. But not without much social crisis and consequent educational experience and discovery concerning the nature of our unlimited wealth. Through the universal research and development fellowships, we’re going to start emancipating humanity from being muscle and reflex machines. We’re going to give everybody a chance to develop their most powerful mental and intuitive faculties. Given their research and development fellowship, many who have been frustrated during their younger years may feel like going fishing. Fishing provides an excellent opportunity to think clearly; to review one’s life; to recall one’s earlier frustrated and abandoned longings and curiosities. What we want everybody to do is to think clearly. We soon will begin to generate wealth so rapidly that we can do very great things. I would like you to think what this may do realistically for living without spoiling the landscape, or the antiquities or the trails of humanity throughout the ages, or despoiling the integrity of romance, vision, and harmonic creativity. All the great office buildings will be emptied of earned living workers, and the automated office-processing of information will be centralized in the basements of a few buildings. This will permit all the modernly mechanized office buildings to be used as dwelling facilities. When we approach our problems on a universal, general systems basis and progressively eliminate the irrelevancies, somewhat as we peel petals from an artichoke, at each move we leave in full visibility the next most important layer of factors with which we must deal. We gradually uncover you and me in the heart of now. But evolution requires that we comprehend each layer in order to unpeel it. We have now updated our definitions of universe by conforming them with the most recent and erudite scientific findings such as -those of Einstein and Planck. Earlier in our thinking we discovered man’s function in universe to be that of the most effective metaphysical capability experimentally evidenced thus far within our locally observable phases and time zones of universe. We have also discovered that it is humanity’s task to comprehend and set in order the special case facts of human experience and to win therefrom knowledge of the a priori existence of a complex of generalized, abstract principles which apparently altogether govern all physically evolving phenomena of universe. We have learned that only and exclusively through use of his mind can man inventively employ the generalized principles further to conserve the locally available physical energy of the only universally unlimited supply. Only thus can man put to orderly advantage the various, local, and otherwise disorderly behaviors of the entropic, physical universe. Man can and may metaphysically comprehend, anticipate, shunt, and meteringly introduce the evolutionarily organized environment events in the magnitudes and frequencies that best synchronize with the patterns of his successful and metaphysical metabolic regeneration while ever increasing the degrees of humanity’s space and time freedoms from yesterday’s ignorance sustaining survival procedure chores and their personal time capital wasting.

## Extensions

### Guaranteed Minimum Income Solves

#### Martin Luther King Jr. advocated a Universal Basic Income.

Weissmann, 2013 (Jordan [Senior Associate Editor for the Atlantic]; Martin Luther King’s Economic Dream: A Guaranteed Income for All Americans” *The Atlantic* 28 Aug 2013; Online: <http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2013/08/martin-luther-kings-economic-dream-a-guaranteed-income-for-all-americans/279147/>)

One of the more under-appreciated aspects of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy is that by the end of his career, he had fashioned himself into a crusader against poverty, not just among blacks, but all Americans. In the weeks leading to his assassination, the civil rights leader had been hard at work organizing a new march on Washington known as the "Poor People's Campaign." The goal was to erect a tent city on the National Mall, that, as Mark Engler described it for The Nation in 2010, would "dramatize the reality of joblessness and deprivation by bringing those excluded from the economy to the doorstep of the nation's leaders." He was killed before he could see the effort through. So what, exactly, was King's economic dream? In short, he wanted the government to eradicate poverty by providing every American a guaranteed, middle-class income—an idea that, while light-years beyond the realm of mainstream political conversation today, had actually come into vogue by the late 1960s. To be crystal clear, a guaranteed income—or a universal basic income, as it's sometimes called today—is not the same as a higher minimum wage. Instead, it's a policy designed to make sure each American has a certain concrete sum of money to spend each year. One modern version of the policy would give every adult a tax credit that would essentially become a cash payment for families that don't pay much tax. Conservative thinker Charles Murray has advocated replacing the whole welfare state by handing every grown American a full $10,000.

#### A just government should guarantee all a minimum, livable income; regardless of both job and employment status.

King Jr., 1967 (Martin Luther [Pastor, Civil Right Figure] *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community* Beacon Press; New York. P. 198-9)

A true revolution of values will soon look uneasily on the glaring contrast of poverty and wealth. With righteous indignation, it will look at thousands of working people displaced from their jobs with reduced incomes as a result of automation while the profits of the employers remain intact, and say: “This is not just.” It will look across the oceans and see individual capitalists of the West investing huge sums of money in Asia, Africa and South America, only to take the profits out with no concern for the social betterment of the countries, and say: “This is not just.” It will look at our alliance with the landed gentry of Latin America and say: “This is not just.” The Western arrogance of feeling that it has everything to teach others and nothing to learn from them is not just. A true revolution of values will lay hands on the world order and say of war: “This way of settling differences is not just.” This business of burning human beings with napalm, of filling our nation’s homes with orphans and widows, of injecting poisonous drugs of hate into the veins of peoples normally humane, of sending men home from dark and bloody battlefields physically handicapped and psychologically deranged cannot be reconciled with wisdom, justice and love. A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death. America, the richest and most powerful nation in the world, can well lead the way in this revolution of values. There is nothing to prevent us from paying adequate wages to schoolteachers, social workers and other servants of the public to insure that we have the best available personnel in these positions which are charged with the responsibility of guiding our future generations. There is nothing but a lack of social vision to prevent us from paying an adequate wage to every American citizen whether he be a hospital worker, laundry worker, maid or day laborer. There is nothing except shortsightedness to prevent us from guaranteeing an annual minimum—and livable—income for every American family. There is nothing, except a tragic death wish, to prevent us from reordering our priorities, so that the pursuit of peace will take precedence over the pursuit of war. There is nothing to keep us from remolding a recalcitrant status quo with bruised hands until we have fashioned it into a brotherhood.

### Solutions are Processual

#### Civilization is shifting its basic outlooks, and freedom will come. The story may be long, but it is worth it.

King Jr., 1967 (Martin Luther [Pastor, Civil Right Figure] *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community* Beacon Press; New York. P. 179-81)

Along with the scientific and technological revolution, we have also witnessed a worldwide freedom revolution over the last few decades. The present upsurge of the Negro people of the United States grows out of a deep and passionate determination to make freedom and equality a reality “here” and “now.” In one sense the civil rights movement in the United States is a special American phenomenon which must be understood in the light of American history and dealt with in terms of the American situation. But on another and more important level, what is happening in the United States today is a significant part of a world development. We live in a day, said the philosopher Alfred North Whitehead, “when civilization is shifting its basic outlook; a major turning point in history where the pre-suppositions on which society is structured are being analyzed, sharply challenged, and profoundly changed.” What we are seeing now is a freedom explosion, the realization of “an idea whose time has come,” to use Victor Hugo’s phrase. The deep rumbling of discontent that we hear today is the thunder of disinherited masses, rising from dungeons of oppression to the bright hills of freedom. In one majestic chorus the rising masses are singing, in the words of our freedom song, “Ain’t gonna let nobody turn us around.” All over the world like a fever, freedom is spreading in the widest liberation movement in history. The great masses of people are determined to end the exploitation of their races and lands. They are awake and moving toward their goal like a tidal wave. You can hear them rumbling in every village street, on the docks, in the houses, among the students, in the churches and at political meetings. For several centuries the direction of history flowed from the nations and societies of Western Europe out into the rest of the world in “conquests” of various sorts. That period, the era of colonialism, is at an end. East is moving West. The earth is being redistributed. Yes, we are “shifting our basic outlooks.” These developments should not surprise any student of history. Oppressed people cannot remain oppressed forever. The yearning for freedom eventually manifests itself. The Bible tells the thrilling story of how Moses stood in Pharaoh’s court centuries ago and cried, “Let my people go.” This was an opening chapter in a continuing story. The present struggle in the United States is a later chapter in the same story. Something within has reminded the Negro of his birthright of freedom, and something without has reminded him that it can be gained. Consciously or unconsciously, he has been caught up by the spirit of the times, and with his black brothers of Africa and his brown and yellow brothers in Asia, South America and the Caribbean, the United States Negro is moving with a sense of great urgency toward the promised land of racial justice.

#### **Focus on specific programs is how the powerful keep the oppressed, oppressed.**

Martin Luther King Jr., 1967 (Pastor, Civil Rights Figure. *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community*; 2010 Edition; Beacon Press: New York)

When a people are mired in oppression, they realize deliverance when they have accumulated the power to enforce change. When they have amassed such strength, the writing of a program becomes almost an administrative detail. It is immaterial who presents the program; what is material is the presence of an ability to make events happen. The powerful never lose opportunities—they remain available to them. The powerless, on the other hand, never experience opportunity—it is always arriving at a later time. The deeper truth is that the call to prepare programs distracts us excessively from our basic and primary tasks. If we are seeking a home, there is not much value in discussing blueprints if we have no money and are barred from acquiring the land. We are, in fact, being counseled to put the cart before the horse. We have to put the horse (power) before the cart (programs).

#### We must accept a revolution of values, and discover a ground between Capitalism and Communism, in order to remain moral.

King Jr., 1967 (Martin Luther [Pastor, Civil Right Figure] *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community* Beacon Press; New York. P. 196-7)

The stability of the large world house which is ours will involve a revolution of values to accompany the scientific and freedom revolutions engulfing the earth. We must rapidly begin the shift from a “thing”-oriented society to a “person”-oriented society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, materialism and militarism are incapable of being conquered. A civilization can flounder as readily in the face of moral and spiritual bankruptcy as it can through financial bankruptcy. This revolution of values must go beyond traditional capitalism and Communism. We must honestly admit that capitalism has often left a gulf between superfluous wealth and abject poverty, has created conditions permitting necessities to be taken from the many to give luxuries to the few, and has encourage small-hearted men to become cold and conscienceless so that, like Dives before Lazarus, they are unmoved by suffering, poverty-stricken humanity. The profit motive, when it is the sole basis of an economic system, encourages a cutthroat competition and selfish ambition that inspire men to be more I-centered than thou-centered. Equally, Communism reduces men to a cog in the wheel of the state. The Communist may object, saying that in Marxian theory the state is an “interim reality” that will “wither away” when the classless society emerges. True—in theory; but it is also true that, while the state lasts, it is an end in itself. Man is a means to that end. He has no inalienable rights. His only rights are derived from, and conferred by, the state. Under such a system the fountain of freedom runs dry. Restricted are man’s liberties of press and assembly, his freedom to vote and his freedom to listen and to read. Truth is found neither in traditional capitalism nor in classical Communism. Each represents a partial truth. Capitalism fails to see the truth in collectivism. Communism fails to see the truth in individualism. Capitalism fails to realize that life is social. Communism fails to realize that life is personal. The good and just society is neither the thesis of capitalism nor the antithesis of Communism, but a socially conscious democracy which reconciles the truths of individualism and collectivism.

### Survival Depends on Solving Poverty

#### Our survival depends on our ability to remain awake during our social evolution, and to work towards liberation.

King Jr., 1967 (Martin Luther [Pastor, Civil Right Figure] *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community* Beacon Press; New York. P. 181)

One of the great liabilities of history is that all too many people fail to remain awake through great periods of social change. Every society has its protectors of the status quo and its fraternities of the indifferent who are notorious for sleeping through revolutions. But today our very survival depends on our ability to stay awake, to adjust to new ideas, to remain vigilant and to face the challenge of change. The large house in which we live demands that we transform this worldwide neighborhood into a worldwide brotherhood. Together we must learn to live as brothers or together we will be forced to perish as fools. We must work passionately and indefatigably to bridge the gulf between our scientific progress and our moral progress. One of the great problems of mankind is that we suffer from a poverty of the spirit which stands in glaring contrast to our scientific and technological abundance. The richer we have become materially, the poorer we have become morally and spiritually.

### A2: Private Employment can Solve

#### We must stop subordinating internal goals to the external drive and motivation of material or private forces.

King Jr., 1967 (Martin Luther [Pastor, Civil Right Figure] *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community* Beacon Press; New York. P. 181-3)

Every man lives in two realms, the internal and the external. The internal is that realm of spiritual ends expressed in art, literature, morals and religion. The external is that complex of devices, techniques, mechanisms and instrumentalities by means of which we live. Our problem today is that we have allowed the internal to become lost in the external. We have allowed the means by which we live to outdistance the ends for which we live. So much of modern life can be summarized in that suggestive phrase of Thoreau: “Improved means to an unimproved end.” This is the serious predicament, the deep and haunting problem, confronting modern man. Enlarged material powers spell enlarged peril if there is not proportionate growth of the soul. When the external of man’s nature subjugates the internal, dark storm clouds begin to form. Western civilization is particularly vulnerable at this moment, for our material abundance has brought us neither peace of mind nor serenity of spirit. An Asian writer has portrayed our dilemma in candid terms: You call your thousand material devices “labor-saving machinery,” yet you are forever “busy.” With the multiplying of your machinery you grow increasingly fatigued, anxious, nervous, dissatisfied. Whatever you have, you want more; and wherever you are you want to go somewhere else . . . your devices are neither time-saving nor soul-saving machinery. They are so many sharp spurs which urge you on to invent more machinery and to do more business. This tells us something about our civilization that cannot be cast aside as a prejudiced charge by an Eastern thinker who is jealous of Western prosperity. We cannot escape the indictment. This does not mean that we must turn back the clock of scientific progress. No one can overlook the wonders that science has wrought for our lives. The automobile will not abdicate in favor of the horse and buggy, or the train in favor of the stagecoach, or the tractor in favor of the hand plow, or the scientific method in favor of ignorance and superstition. But our moral and spiritual “lag” must be redeemed. When scientific power outruns moral power, we end up with guided missiles and misguided men. When we foolishly minimize the internal of our lives and maximize the external, we sign the warrant for our own day of doom. Our hope for creative living in this world house that we have inherited lies in our ability to reestablish the moral ends of our lives in personal character and social justice. Without this spiritual and moral reawakening we shall destroy ourselves in the misuse of our own instruments.

### A2: Overpopulation

#### Dealing with poverty is a prerequisite to deal with overpopulation.

King Jr., 1967 (Martin Luther [Pastor, Civil Right Figure] *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community* Beacon Press; New York. P. 191)

This does not mean that we can overlook the enormous acceleration in the rate of growth of the world’s population. The population explosion is very real, and it must be faced squarely if we are to avoid, in centuries ahead, a “standing room only” situation on these earthly shores. Most of the large undeveloped nations in the world today are confronted with the problem of excess population in relation to resources. But even this problem will be greatly diminished by wiping out poverty. When people see more opportunities for better education and greater economic security, they begin to consider whether a smaller family might not be better for themselves and for their children. In other words, I doubt that there can be a stabilization of the population without a prior stabilization of economic resources. The time has come for an all-out world war against poverty. The rich nations must use their vast resources of wealth to develop the underdeveloped, school the unschooled and feed the unfed. The well-off and the secure have too often become indifferent and oblivious to the poverty and deprivation in their midst. The poor in our countries have been shut out of our minds, and driven from the mainstream of our societies, because we have allowed them to become invisible. Ultimately a great nation is a compassionate nation. No individual or nation can be great if it does not have a concern for “the least of these.”

### A2: Self-Interest Key

#### Humanity is not necessarily self-interested; life is not possible without the other.

King Jr., 1967 (Martin Luther [Pastor, Civil Right Figure] *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community* Beacon Press; New York. P. 190-1)

From time immemorial men have lived by the principle that “self-preservation is the first law of life.” But this is a false assumption. I would say that other-preservation is the first law of life. It is the first law of life precisely because we cannot preserve self without being concerned about preserving other selves. The universe is so structured that things go awry if men are not diligent in their cultivation of the other regarding dimension. “I” cannot reach fulfillment without “thou.” The self cannot be self without other selves. Self-concern without other-concern is like a tributary that has no outward flow to the ocean. Stagnant, still and stale, it lacks both life and freshness. Nothing would be more disastrous and out of harmony with our self-interest than for the developed nations to travel a dead-end road of inordinate selfishness. We are in the fortunate position of having our deepest sense of morality coalesce with our self-interest. But the real reason that we must use our resources to outlaw poverty goes beyond material concerns to the quality of our mind and spirit. Deeply woven into the fiber of our religious tradition is the conviction that men are made in the image of God, and that they are souls of infinite metaphysical value. If we accept this as a profound moral fact, we cannot be content to see men hungry, to see men victimized with ill-health, when we have the means to help them. In the final analysis, the rich must not ignore the poor because both rich and poor are tied together. They entered the same mysterious gateway of human birth, into the same adventure of mortal life. All men are interdependent. Every nation is an heir of a vast treasury of ideas and labor to which both the living and the dead of all nations have contributed. Whether we realize it or not, each of us lives eternally “in the red.” We are everlasting debtors to known and unknown men and women. When we arise in the morning, we go into the bathroom where we reach for a sponge which is provided for us by a Pacific Islander. We reach for soap that is created for us by a European. Then at the table we drink coffee which is provided for us by a South American, or tea by a Chinese or cocoa by a West African. Before we leave for our jobs we are already beholden to more than half of the world. In a real sense, all life is interrelated. The agony of the poor impoverishes the rich; the betterment of the poor enriches the rich. We are inevitably our brother’s keeper because we are our brother’s brother. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly.