

VILLAGE of WESTERN SPRINGS



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June 2, 2017

The Honorable Governor Bruce Rauner
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

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Dear Governor Rauner:

On behalf of the Village of Western Springs Village Board of Trustees, I am sending this letter to urge you to address the issue of the minimum wage and sick leave as state-wide uniform requirements applicable to all employers and employees of Illinois.

As you may know, on October 5, 2016, the Cook County Board of Commissioners adopted Ordinance #16-4229 that establishes earned sick leave for employees in Cook County and requires private employers in Cook County to provide a minimum number of paid sick days to employees. In addition, On October 26, 2016, the Cook County Board of Commissioners passed Ordinance #16-5768, which raises the minimum wage for certain private employers in Cook County beginning July 1, 2017.

We strongly believe that both of these issues would be more appropriately regulated on a state-wide basis ensuring an even playing field for those within and outside of Cook County.

The effect of the Cook County Ordinance is the creation of an uneven playing field for employers and employees inside and outside of Cook County. The Cook County ordinance raises the minimum wage quicker in the early years; however, Illinois Senate Bill 0081 raises the minimum wage to a higher level by 2022. If Senate Bill 0081 is enacted, it would provide a uniform minimum wage applicable to all Illinois employers and employees, as opposed to the Cook County Ordinance, which only applies to private employers within Cook County.

More than a dozen municipalities within Cook County have already opted out of the County requirement creating another layer of uneven playing field for employers and employees within Cook County. Please support a state-wide solution on the issues of minimum wage and sick leave for all employees and employers in the State of Illinois. Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

Alice Gallagher
Village President
Village of Western Springs

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