HUMAN IMPACT PARTNERS

May 4, 2015

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

RE: Council File 14-1371-S1, Citywide Minimum Wage Ordinance/Include Language Addressing Wage Theft AND
Council File 14-1371-S2, Citywide Minimum Wage/City Administrative Officer/Chief Legislative Analyst/Economic Workforce Development Department/Procure an Economic Analysis

Honorable Councilmembers:

The undersigned California-based health professionals are submitting the following **Statement In Support of Fair and Decent Work Rules:**

No single factor is more important for healthy living than an adequate income and none more harmful to health than persistent poverty. As caregivers and professionals responsible for the health of Los Angeles residents, we call on the City Council to adopt viable and enforceable minimum wage and sick leave rules that give all workers a chance to live healthy lives.

Economic security is necessary for people to thrive, successfully manage stress, and prevent disease. We work on the front lines in hospitals, clinics, and community organizations, and every day we witness the human suffering caused by economic insecurity. We see firsthand how overwork, poor quality food, housing insecurity, and other consequences of low wages contribute to chronic diseases like high blood pressure, diabetes, and heart failure. Our medical skills and tools cannot help our patients meet these challenges. All who live, work and have businesses in Los Angeles are paying for the health impacts of poverty and deprivation.

Economic security requires guaranteeing that work is available, safe and pays a decent wage. Ensuring that families have a decent standard of living is one of the most powerful tools we have to protect and promote health. Earned sick time gives workers a chance to recover from illness or care for family members without the penalty of a smaller paycheck.

We applaud Los Angeles city leaders for considering an enforceable $15 minimum wage and sick time protections for all workers. We urge the City Council to adopt these proposals, not only as a matter of fairness but also as an affordable and wise investment in the city's health.

(Affiliations provided for identification purposes only.)

Nancy Adler, PhD
Director, Center for Health and Community, University of California, San Francisco

Rachel Bennett, MPH, MURP
Program Coordinator, Prevention Institute

Rajiv Bhatia, MD, MPH
Director, The Civic Engine

Rhea Boyd, MD
Pediatrician, Child Health Advocate, San Francisco

Paula Braveman, MD, MPH
Professor of Family and Community Medicine, University of California, San Francisco

Andrew Cheng, MD
Family Physician

Jenna van Draanen, MPH
Researcher, University of California, Los Angeles

Jerzy Eisenberg-Guyot
Public Health Associate, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Paul English, PhD, MPH
Senior Branch Advisor, California Department of Public Health

Lili Farhang, MPH
Co-Director, Human Impact Partners

Jonathan Heller, PhD
Co-Director, Human Impact Partners

Jan King, MD, MPH
Area Health Officer, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Niklas Krause, MD
Professor of Epidemology and Environmental Health Sciences, University of California, Los Angeles

Richard Kreutzer, MD
Public Health Medical Administrator, California Department of Public Health

Rishi Manchanda, MD, MPH

Jim Mangia, MPH
President & CEO, St. John's Well Child and Family Center

Shannon Murray
Director, Homeless/Housing Services, Watts Labor Community Action Committee

Wayne Pan, MD
Chief Medical Officer, Applied Research Works

Linda Rudolph, MD, MPH
Physician, Public Health Institute

Adam Schickedanz, MD
UCLA Faculty in Pediatrics and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar

Jessica Schumer, MD
Pediatrician, University of California, Los Angeles

Frederick Zimmerman, PhD
Professor, Department of Health Policy and Management, University of California, Los Angeles