

**Statement by Joan Penrose Borum on Behalf of the Huntington
Township Housing Coalition**

**New York State Fast Food Workers' Wage Board LI Hearing
Nassau Community College
June 18, 2015**

I am here today speaking on behalf of the Huntington Township Housing Coalition, and we support the \$15/hr minimum wage. The HTHC is a coalition of over 20 service, community, and faith based organizations. Our mission is to encourage the development of affordable new and rehabilitated homes, both rental and ownership, for low and moderate income individuals and families in Huntington Township.

According to HUD, "families who pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing are considered cost burdened and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation and medical care." A \$15/hr minimum wage, at 40 hours a week and four weeks a month, works out to \$2400/mo. In order to not be "cost burdened", a family with a single wage earner at even a \$15 minimum wage would have to pay no more than \$720/mo in rent.

According to HUD's FY 2015 Fair Market Rent Documentation system, in Suffolk County the fair market rent for a one-bedroom apartment is \$1395/mo. This means you need at least two adults working full time jobs at a \$15/hr minimum wage to pay the rent on a one bedroom apartment and have money left over to eat.

While this shows that even a \$15/hr minimum wage is insufficient to cover housing costs in Suffolk County, \$15/hour is much better than the present situation, and that is why we support the increase.