

VIOLATION: RIGHT TO A LIVING WAGE

This is the story of a woman who has had her right to a living wage violated. For ten years, she was a single mother with three daughters. She worked her way from a person who cleaned repossessed mobile homes to the office manager for a mobile home sales company. She was unable for certain assistance such as food stamps because she worked, but in the beginning she did not make enough to buy groceries on a weekly basis, therefore her and her girls mostly ate cheap fast food. She wanted to work and she never expected handouts but with no support from their fathers even though they were court-ordered to pay child support, she did expect help through the tough times, however it would have been more beneficial to her and her girls if she would not have worked at all. Although she worked, her job did not offer health insurance for her or her girls. She did receive Medicaid for her daughters but for most of the ten years, she did not have any type of coverage. She bought a house in 2003 and when interest rates started going up in the past two years her payment went up more than \$800.00 so she was forced to put the house up for sale and move into a rental home. She has never been able to put money into a savings account because she mostly lives paycheck to paycheck. She remarried in 2004, but even with 2 people bringing income into the household it is still nearly impossible to make ends meet.