

**Ms. Kismet Evans**  
**Home Healthcare Worker, Las Vegas, Nevada**  
**Testimony before the House Budget Committee**  
**“Solutions to Rising Inequality**  
**September 19, 2019**

Thank you Chairman Yarmuth and Ranking Member Womack for having me before the Budget Committee this morning. And a special thank you to Congressman Horsford, representing my 4<sup>th</sup> District of Nevada.

My name is Kismet Evans and I am a home healthcare worker in Las Vegas, Nevada, and I know I speak for thousands of health care workers on how imperative it is that Congress and the White House work together to provide a living wage for all.

The home healthcare field allows families to receive additional health services for whatever reason they are not capable of providing for their loved ones. WE step up, and step in as an extension of the health care community and of their families. Clearly, that’s worth more than the current minimum wage? The families think so and are grateful.

As a health provider working with clients with brain injuries, dementia, physical disabilities (ambulatory and non-ambulatory), mental wellness, need of medication services, transportation, etc., it warrants immediate action for healthcare providers to receive an increase in their wages to \$15 dollars an hour with an additional conversation related to workers having access to health benefits, mileage, educational opportunities or benefits to help build upon their skills for a better quality of employment, and to increase their skill level for their patients.

Currently, I make an hourly wage without health benefits, no sick or vacation time, nor receiving mileage for transportation services. Whether in my field or another type of service worker, the stories of how the economy has grown doesn’t match reality on the ground. Who is benefiting? Why do we all feel like we are still fighting an uphill battle of higher rents, rising prices at the grocery store, and more bills to finance what we need to get by?

Every human being wants the same things out of life: safety, security, and decent housing. We want the ability to educate, stimulate, motivate, and enrich our family. We are not asking for the world, just a portion, to call hope!