



CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES

A LIVING WAGE MAY CONTRIBUTE TO DISABILITY PREVENTION

A Forum was held at the Center for American Progress on the “Living Wage”. Presenters at the forum were an author of a paper on the Living wage a representative from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and an advocate for the living wage.

Summary

Wages from workers are put into the community that contribute to a viable economy. However, over the long term, median wages have fallen. As a result, there are tax payer subsidies to businesses for job creation and businesses should return benefits to communities for these financial subsidies. Businesses are requesting lower labor standards in exchange for investment. The results of government subsidies to business are often creation of jobs that pay poverty level wages with no basic benefits. There is evidence that some local communities are working to gain greater control over these projects of business subsidies to see that tax payers receive good value for their investment by attaching wage standards to their economic development subsidies. There is evidence that economic development wage standards have not had a negative effect on city wide employment levels. Questions have been raised whether cities actually enforce their business assistance provisions.

Disability Prevention Issues

There are relationships between, wages, the economy, job growth and population based health. Living wage standards may prevent a race to the bottom for low wages because investment follows the greatest return (i.e. low wages) which is a recipe for poverty. Poverty, labor standards, living wages, family leave policies to support health are related to prevention of diminished health that contribute to disability. Labor standards affect health as does poverty.

Activity

There was a post forum discussion, with one of the presenters on a floor of life that adversely impacts ones health (i.e social determinants of health based on living environments) associated with income levels.

Principle

Everyone who wants to work should have a job and supports capable of maintaining health of individuals and families to ameliorate disability.