

My name Marie-Reine Viollin. I have been working as a waitress in Washington DC for more than twenty years and I am currently employed at Bistrot Lepic restaurant located 1736 Wisconsin Avenue, NW Washington DC 20007.

I am very concerned with the new proposal to change the way wait staff would be compensated in the future. In the present condition wait staff receive a minimum wage of \$3.89 and we receive gratuities [from 15% and up] from our patrons. Under these conditions at Bistrot Lepic this brings our minimum wages at more than \$20.00 an hour.

With this new proposal I will be paid \$15.00 an hour that is a huge cut in my salary. Our restaurant, as many other small enterprises, operates with a small margin of return thus they will be constrain to raise the price of the menu to include the service. In consequence the customers will have to pay higher prices and taxes.

Customers commuting from Virginia and Maryland encounter many challenges [parking, parking cost] thus adding more expenses to dine in Washington DC. The business will suffer greatly because less customers will be eager to come to Washington DC. As a result the restaurant owner will be forced to reduce the hours of the staff.

Many small restaurant businesses will be forced to close under this new proposal or move to Virginia, and I will be out of job!