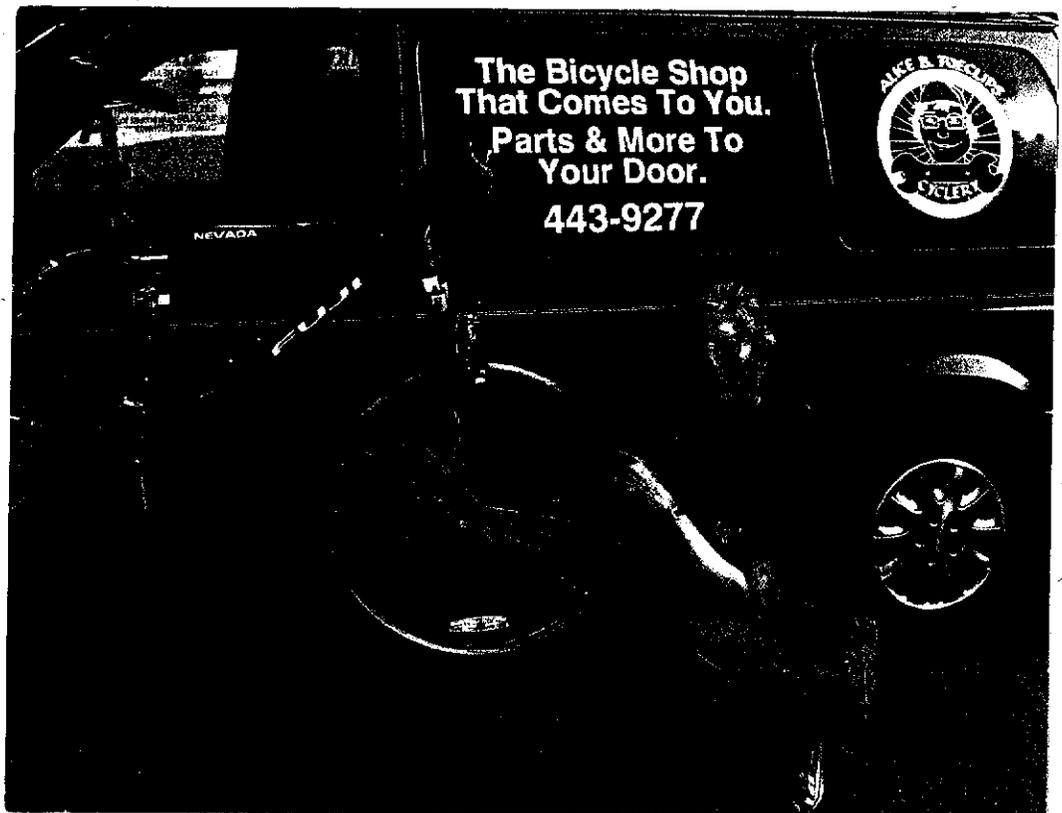


My name is Kari Hoffman – Missoula Montana. I am the President of UNITE HERE Local 427 and have worked at Hillside Healthcare for the past years. I am a single Mother of three and I raised my three children on a low wage salary. I consider myself a professional – along with the people I work with.

We take care of some of the most vulnerable members of our society – the elderly and infirm. Because the wages in our industry are so low – the turnover is very high. Turnover causes us to work short staffed – and make it very difficult to provide the quality care I believe our residents deserve.

I am here today to ask you – in person to vote ‘Yes’ on this Bill. Even though I wish it was more, I do know this increase in the minimum wage will make life a little easier for a lot of us out there doing meaningful work that needs to be done. We hear a lot in the news these days – that immigrant workers are just doing work that none of us wants to do – I am here to tell you – I want to work and I want the people we represent to make a higher wage. An increase in the minimum wage will help raise the floor of service and healthcare workers in the State of Montana. Please vote YES

Thank you.



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