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Letters To The Editor

Letters Kudos To Aetna For A Living Wage

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In his State of the Union address, President Obama said, "To give working families a fair shot, we'll still need more employers to see beyond next quarter's earnings and recognize that investing in their workforce is in their company's long-term interest."

Kudos to Aetna CEO Mark Bertolini for doing just that in raising the company's minimum wage to \$16 per hour [Jan. 16, Business, "Aetna Boosts Workers' Minimum Wage"]. Connecticut United Ways' recently released ALICE Report finds that for a single adult, an hourly wage of \$10.97 is required just to meet a "survival" budget. Our state minimum wage almost gets us there in 2017, and Aetna has more than gotten its employees on the road to a living wage.

However, for a family of four, the ALICE Report found that an hourly wage of \$32.34 is needed to afford the essentials in Connecticut. Aetna's leadership demonstrates that progress is surely being made, but we still have a long way to go for families in our state.

As Obama added in his State of the Union remarks, "If you truly believe you could work full-time and support a family on less than \$15,000 a year, go try it."

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