



Letter: Support for minimum wage for all

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By **Press-Register Editorial Board**

On July 16, the Press-Register printed an article about People First of Alabama and my new position as co-coordinator for the agency ("Mobilian continues his fight for those in Alabama and beyond").

People First of Alabama is Alabama's oldest self-advocacy organization for people with developmental disabilities, and I am extremely honored to be serving the agency in my current capacity.



The article was well written and very complimentary of People First of Alabama and me. However, it has come to my attention that my statement, "We all know that there are going to be some people who are never going to work on their own," has been taken out of context in order to support and justify paying people less than minimum wage while those organizations that support them collect millions of dollars from contracts and from Medicaid.

What I meant by my statement is that there are people with and without disabilities who have health issues that may prevent them from working. This does not translate into people with intellectual and developmental disabilities not being able to work or not receiving minimum wage for work.

While it is true that People First of Alabama is calling for an end to piece-rate and sub-minimum wages, People First is not advocating the loss of a single job or the closure of any facility — only that there should be minimum wage across the board to all employees.

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