

# Court Upholds Albuquerque Minimum Wage Law

Contacts:

Rebecca Glenn-OLÉ, [rglenn@olenm.org](mailto:rglenn@olenm.org), 505-720-8918

Maria Archuleta-Center on Law & Poverty, [maria.a@nmpovertylaw.org](mailto:maria.a@nmpovertylaw.org), 505-255-2840

Albuquerque, NM -- Honorable Judge Shannon Bacon threw out a challenge to the Albuquerque Minimum Wage Ordinance today, ruling that the results of the 2012 general election are final and cannot be challenged now.

“It’s astonishing and disheartening that business groups were trying to cut hard working New Mexicans’ wages by nearly \$3,000 a year,” said Trae Buffin who is a member of OLÉ. “I’m overjoyed that the court agreed with the people and that the minimum wage is safe in Albuquerque.”

The ruling arose out of a lawsuit filed against the city by business lobbyists attempting to end minimum wage, which was overwhelmingly passed by voters in 2012, and to remove the earned sick ordinance from the October 2017 ballot. Community organizations and voters who support the law intervened in the case to defend the ordinance.

Judge Bacon has not yet ruled on the earned sick days initiative, but indicated at the hearing that she would do so soon. The earned sick leave ballot initiative, if passed, would give workers the right to earn sick leave to recover from illness or care for ill family members. Local community organizations have been working to educate the public on the earned sick leave initiative since last summer, when over 24,000 voters in Albuquerque signed the petition in support of it.

The Healthy Workforce ABQ Ordinance can be read online here:

<https://healthyworkforceabq.org/full-language-of-ordinance/>

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**Local Organizations to Appeal Ruling Ending Local Ballot Initiative Process Thwarted by Court's Decision**

*Local Organizations Plan to Appeal Judge's Ruling*

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Albuquerque, NM -- Advocates will appeal a ruling by In an order released Thursday, the Honorable Judge Shannon Bacon ruled that Albuquerque voters no longer have the right to create and pass local ballot initiatives.

OLÉ an advocate for a current ballot initiative, Healthy Workforce ABQ, intervened in a lawsuit against the City of Albuquerque by business lobbyists attempting to end minimum wage, which was overwhelmingly passed by voters in 2012, and remove the earned sick ordinance from the October 2017 ballot. OLÉ will appeal the ruling in an emergency filing with the New Mexico Supreme Court.

“Quote by CLP about obstructing voters’ right to direct democracy,” said Tim Davis, an attorney with the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty who argued before the court today on behalf of Healthy Workforce ABQ.

Advocates for a current ballot initiative process, Healthy Workforce ABQ, filed to intervene in the lawsuit against the city hoping to dismiss the case on the grounds that, “Quote by CLP.”

The lawsuit, which also removes the Healthy Workforce Ordinance from the ballot, is the latest in various tactics used by those who oppose the Healthy Workforce Act, an initiative to provide earned sick days to all workers in Albuquerque.

“I’m astonished at the lengths in which these corporate business groups will go to disrupt democracy,” said XXXXXX, a member of XXXX. “Rather than allow earned sick days to be judged by voters, Judge Bacon’s ruling has disrupted democracy and disenfranchised voters.”

OLÉ, one of the members of the Healthy Workforce ABQ coalition, filed as an intervener in the lawsuit, in which the City of Albuquerque is named as the defendant. OLÉ will appeal the ruling in an emergency filing with the New Mexico Supreme Court.

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