



**DIOCESE OF FRESNO**  
**PASTORAL CENTER**  
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Item #13  
11-5-2019

October 31, 2019

Dear Fresno County Supervisors,

On behalf of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Fresno and, truth be told, on my own behalf, I am writing to you in support of the many home care providers here in our County.

Our In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) workers here in the County are providing a simply beautiful service to some of the most vulnerable among us with a dedication that is clearly rooted in love, compassion and selflessness. It is the Lords' work when you think about it. They are literally living out a passage from chapter 25 of Matthew's Gospel: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you comforted me, in prison and you came to visit me." But in order to continue this good work and quite frankly to survive, IHSS caregivers must earn a livable wage and should have access to benefits that can provide for a better future for them and those who are counting on them for support and sustenance.

These care providers have come before the Supervisors time and again to ask for a modest increase in wages and all to no avail. At the same time, some of the County's senior management team members have had increases approved by you; ending up with salaries for some that are just under a quarter of a million dollars, not to mention the robust health care benefits and retirement that they receive.

It is just morally wrong to turn a blind eye to these workers and their needs. Those who provide so much care need to be cared for too! So I ask that you honor the workers by honoring their work with a livable and fair wage. Doing so, I believe, will be one more small step in pointing our County's moral compass in the right direction. In the depth of my heart I believe it will more authentically reflect the Fresno County we are all trying to build together.

Sincerely,

Most Rev. Joseph V. Brennan, D.D.  
Bishop of the Diocese of Fresno