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### **Endorsement of the Fair Wages for New Yorkers Act**

Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) individuals are among New York City's most vulnerable citizens; many of us earn low-income wages and continually struggle to make a decent living. Retail is one of the fastest growing low-wage sectors of our economy, and many LGBT people work in this industry, earning wages that barely enable us to survive in this expensive city. Raising wages and job standards in the retail industry will undoubtedly improve life for LGBT New Yorkers.

It should be noted that retailers often lease space in commercial properties that are part of economic development projects built with taxpayer money. Despite the billions of public dollars spent in the name of economic development and job creation, many members of the LGBT community have not been strengthened as a result.

The City of New York now has a great opportunity to use public policy to facilitate the creation of more living wage retail jobs.

**Stonewall Democratic Club of New York City** proudly endorses the **Fair Wages for New Yorkers Act**. This legislation, which is supported by a majority of New York City Council's members, would establish a living wage standard for retail jobs and other jobs created by companies that benefit from taxpayer-funded economic development subsidies. The Fair Wages for New Yorkers Act would ensure that public money does not fund poverty-wage jobs, and boosts job quality in the retail sector.

Furthermore, Stonewall Democratic Club's members are among the many thousands of New Yorkers from diverse backgrounds who have joined the **Living Wage NYC** campaign to push for passage of this crucial legislation. We urge New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn to enact The Fair Wages for New Yorkers Act into law.