# 1AC

### Util FW

The standard is maximizing life.

1. Actor specificity-key to the text of the resolution which is the basis for all burdens-the resolution is a question of government action for which there is no act/omission distinction.

Sunstein Cass Sunstein and Adrian Vermuele, “Is Capital Punishment Morally Required? The Relevance of Life‐Life Tradeoffs,” Chicago Public Law & Legal Theory Working Paper No. 85 (March 2005), p. 17.

The most fundamental point is that unlike individuals, **governments always** and necessarily **face a choice between** or among **possible policies for regulating third parties. The distinction between acts and omissions may not be intelligible in this context,** and even if it is, the distinction does not make a morally relevant difference. Most generally, government is in the business of creating permissions and prohibitions. When it explicitly or implicitly authorizes private action, it is not omitting to do anything or refusing to act. **Moreover, the distinction between authorized and unauthorized private action** – for example, private killing – **becomes obscure when government** formally **forbids private action but chooses a** set of **policy** instruments **that do[es] not** adequately or **fully discourage it.**

Impacts: A. life comes first-its instrumental in pursuing all other values so means based frameworks collapse to the aff. B. no skep or presumption-governments are always forced to take some action so deflationary arguments have no impact, C. no generic util indicts-policymakers can act in cases of uncertainty-they still have a general idea.

2. Moral uncertainty means we should preserve life to find ethical truth in the future.

Bostrom Nick Bostrom, 2001 prof of Philosophy, Oxford University Journal of Evolution and Technology, Vol. 9, March 2002. First version: 2001 March, JStor

These reflections on moral uncertainty suggest[s] an alternative, complementary way of looking at existential risk. Let me elaborate. Our present understanding of axiology might well be confused. We may not now know—at least not in concrete detail—what outcomes would count as a big win for humanity; we might not even yet be able to imagine the best ends of our journey. If we are indeed profoundly uncertain about our ultimate aims, then we should recognize that there is a great option value in preserving—and ideally improving—our ability to recognize value and to steer the future accordingly. Ensuring that there will be a future version of humanity with great powers and a propensity to use them wisely is plausibly the best way available to us to increase the probability that the future will contain a lot of value.

3. Empiricism. Morality must be based in empirical facts to avoid infinite regress.

Richards Robert, “A Defense of Evolutionary Ethics,” *Biology and Philosophy*, (1986) 265-293

This brief discussion of justification of ethical principles indicates how the concept of justification must, I believe, be employed. "To justify" means "**to demonstrate that a proposition** or system of propositions **conforms to a set of** acceptable **rules**, a set of acceptable factual propositions, or a set of acceptable practices. The order of justification is from rules to empirical propositions about beliefs and practices. That is, if **rules serving as** inference principles or the rules serving **as premises** (e.g., the Golden Rule) **of a justifying argument are themselves put to the test, then they must** be shown to **conform [to]** either to still **more general rules or** to **empirical propositions** about common beliefs and practices. **Barring an infinite regress, this procedure must end in** what are regarded as acceptable beliefs or **practices**. Aristotle, for instance, justified the forms of syllogistic reasoning by showing that they made explicit the patterns employed in argument by rational men. Kant justified the categorical imperative and the postulates of practical reason by demonstrating, to his satisfaction, that they were the necessary conditions of common moral experience: that is, he justified normative principles by showing that their application to particular cases reproduced the common moral conclusions of 18th century German burgers and Pietists. If this is an accurate rendering of the concept of justification, then the justification of first moral principles and inference rules must ultimately lead to an appeal to the beliefs and practices of [people], **which** of course **is an empirical appeal.** So **moral principles** ultimately **can be justified only by facts.**

The only morally accessible empirical facts are pain and pleasure-we can’t escape the fundamental fact that pleasure feels good and pain feels bad.

Sinhababu Neil (National University of Singapore) "The Epistemic Argument for Hedonism" http://philpapers.org/archive/SINTEA-3

One can form a variety of beliefs **using phenomenal introspection**. For example, one can believe that one is having sound experiences of particular noises and visual experiences of different shades of color. When looking at a lemon and considering the phenomenal states that are yellow experiences, one can form some beliefs about their intrinsic features – for example, that they are bright experiences. And **when considering experiences of pleasure, one can make** some **judgments about their intrinsic features** – for example, that they are good experiences. Just as one can look inward at one's experience of lemon yellow and appreciate its brightness, **one can look inward at one's experience of pleasure and appreciate its goodness.** When I consider **[in] a situation of increasing pleasure, I can form the belief that things are better than they were before**, in the same way I form the belief that there is more brightness in my visual field as lemon yellow replaces black. And when I suddenly experience pain, I can form the belief that things are worse in my experience than they were before. **"Pleasure"** here **refers to the hedonic tone of experience**. Having pleasure consists in one's experience having this hedonic tone. Without descending into metaphor, it is hard to give a further account of what pleasure is like than to say that when one has it, one feels good. As Aaron Smuts writes in defending the view of pleasure as hedonic tone, “to 'feel good' is about as close to an experiential primitive as we get.” Some philosophers, like Fred Feldman, see pleasure as fundamentally an attitude rather than a hedonic tone. But as long **as hedonic tones** – good and bad feelings – **are real components of experience, phenomenal introspection will reveal pleasure's goodness.** Opponents of the hedonic tone account of pleasure usually concede that hedonic tones exist, as Feldman seems to in discussing “sensory pleasures,” which he thinks his view helps us understand. Even on his view of pleasure, phenomenal introspection can produce the belief that some hedonic tones are good while others are bad. **There are many different kinds of pleasant experiences [like]**. There are **sensory pleasures,** like the pleasure of tasting delicious food, receiving a massage, or resting your tired limbs in a soft bed after a hard day. There are the **pleasures of seeing** that **our desires** are **satisfied**, like the **pleasure of winning a game, getting a promotion, or seeing a friend succeed**. These experiences differ in many ways, just as the experiences we have when looking at lemons and the sky on a sunny day differ. It is easy to see the appeal of Feldman's view that pleasures “have just about nothing in common phenomenologically” (79). **But** just as our experiences in looking at lemons and the sky on a sunny day have brightness in common, **pleasant experiences all have “a certain common quality – feeling good,” as Roger Crisp argues** (109). As the analogy with brightness suggests, hedonic tone is phenomenologically very thin, and usually mixed with a variety of other experiences. **Pleasure of any kind feels good, and displeasure of any kind feels bad**. These feelings may or may not have bodily location or be combined with other sensory states like warmth or pressure. “Pleasure” and “displeasure” mean these thin phenomenal states of feeling good and feeling bad. As Joseph Mendola writes, “the pleasantness of physical pleasure is a kind of hedonic value, a single homogenous sensory property, differing merely in intensity as well as in extent and duration, which is yet a kind of goodness” (442).

### Parameters

Ethical frameworks must be theoretically legitimate-this is a topicality concern.

Overing 13 Bob Overing (TOC 2012 Finalist) “Head to Head: Theoretically Justified Frameworks” November 11th 2013 NSD Update <http://nsdupdate.com/2013/11/11/head-to-head-theoretically-justified-frameworks/> JW 2/20/15

Framework itself is only a subset of a theoretical category we already accept: topicality. It’s about defining the terms for the debate. Debaters have been reading T-Ought for years, but recently John Scoggin and I forwarded a version of the argument we called ‘parameters,’ which makes two claims: 1) any moral framework is an interpretation of the word ought or a similar evaluative term such as morally permissible in the resolution, and 2) any interpretation of a word in the resolution is subject to debate only on theoretical grounds. 1) is obviously true. The use of specific moral terms in the resolution is the only reason the types of frameworks in LD are necessary. If the resolution were “The sky is blue,” ethics would have nothing to do with it. 2) should be intuitive too. When we debate about words in the resolution, we do not appeal to the “truth” of our interpretation; rather, we make arguments about predictable limits or neg ground. Think how ridiculous it would be if the neg ran T-compulsory voting on the September-October 2013 topic, and the aff simply asserted, “but my understanding of compulsory voting is just true.” Such a line of argument would be out of place and insufficient. Before debate occurs, one must prove [their] his/her interpretation of the resolution is appropriate for debate in the first place. This burden has been a part of debate theory for decades and should not be discarded.

My framework defines ought as maximizing life. Prefer this definition:

1. Ground. Every single impact functions under util, whereas other ethics usually flow to one side exclusively. Equal ground access is key to fairness because we both need arguments to win.

2. Topic lit. Most of the articles in minimum wage literature are utilitarian.

Wilhelm 14 William Wilhelm “What Price Dignity?: The ethical side of the minimum wage” May 9th 2014 Hamilton County Business Magazine http://hamiltoncountybusiness.com/price-dignity-ethical-side-minimum-wage/

The minimum wage debate primarily presents arguments based on economic consequences: lost jobs versus reduced poverty, increased consumer spending, reduced government aid, reduced income inequality, and reduced job turnover. This cost-benefit approach focuses on consequences and choosing the action that will produce the greatest good and the least harm for the greatest number of people. While this approach is helpful, it suffers from the weaknesses of fallible measurement and debatable valuations. In other words, how does one measure the harm of half a million lost low-wage jobs versus the benefit of reduced poverty? How does one accurately calculate an incremental value that a higher minimum wage will add to reduced employee turnover?

Also, most articles and books are written through the lens of the public sphere which cares more about intuitively good-sounding things like economic prosperity and poverty since that appeals to general people’s concerns as opposed to abstract philosophies. Topic lit is key because it determines what arguments we can make and how we engage in the topic. Fairness is a voter since debate is a competitive activity-no debater ought to have a structural advantage. This is a reason to prefer the aff framework, not drop the neg.

### Advocacy

I advocate just governments ought to require employers pay a living wage.

Living wage is indexed to cost of living.

LWAC 6 Living Wage Action Coalition (a coalition for action on living wage). “Campus Living Wage Resources: What’s a Living Wage?” May 1st, 2006. http://www.livingwageaction.org/resources\_lw.htm

What's a Living Wage? A living wage is a decent wage. It affords the earner and her or his family the most basic costs of living without need for government support or poverty programs. With a living wage an individual can take pride in her work and enjoy the decency of a life beyond poverty, beyond an endless cycle of working and sleeping, beyond the ditch of poverty wages. A living wage is a complete consideration of the cost of living. **Wages vary according to location, as costs of living vary.** A living wage in rural Louisiana is around $9.33, while in Washington, DC it's closer to $15 an hour. (learn how to calculate a living wage here: Living Wage 101) **A living wage** as opposed to the federal poverty line, **takes into account** the many **necessary factors in calculating** the **actual costs in a specific geographic area**. Both the Economic Policy Institute’s “Basic Family Budget” and Wider Opportunities for Women’s “Self Sufficiency Standard” use thorough research into the seven components of the cost of living to arrive at similar minimum incomes. You would do best to read the two organizations’ own descriptions and detail of their data and approach, but both are summarized here.

Preempts:

First, neg abuse outweighs aff abuse-neg won 66% of outrounds at VBT proving you have the advantage.

Second, T is an RVI for the aff if I win a counter interp-the nature of T makes it a NIB since it’s a layer before theory and the neg doesn’t have to be topical so I can’t turn it-outweighs other disads to the RVI since it’s intrinsic the structure of theory and not a side effect or substantive abuse.

Third, use reasonability on topicality or theory about the aff advocacy with a brightline defending the resolution as a general principle, a standard of maximizing life, and the presence of link and impact turn ground. A. there are tons of many mutually exclusive T interps and I can’t possibly know which one you’ll read so I shouldn’t be punished for setting ground. B. increases topical clash-as long as you can debate under my plan the substantive education we receive outweighs time spent reading T.

### Adv 1 = Income Inequality

Raise in minimum wage is key addressing wage inequality-multiple statistical analyses confirm.

Gindling and Terrell 4 T.H. Gindling (University of Maryland, Baltimore County) and Katherine Terrell (University of Michigan, CEPR, WDI and IZA Bonn) “Minimum Wages, Inequality and Globalization” IZA DP No. 1160 May 2004 <http://repec.iza.org/dp1160.pdf> JW 2/22/15

The results of the estimates of equation (2) are also reported in Table 4. In the equation estimated using data on workers without higher education, the coefficient β1 is positive (0.432) and significant. In the equation estimated with data on workers with higher education, the coefficient β 1 is also positive (0.817) and significant. These results provide evidence in support of the hypothesis that the reduction in the inequality of minimum wages for workers with and without higher education caused a reduction in the inequality of actual wages for each of these categories workers. In the equation estimated using data on both workers without and without higher education, the coefficient β 1 is positive (0.245) but not significant The literature on the impact of minimum wages on inequality has generally analyzed the impact of changes in the “minimum minimum wage” (rather than the dispersion of minimum wages) on wage inequality. The argument generally made is that an increase in the minimum minimum wage will increase the wages of the lowest-paid workers, and therefore reduce the inequality of wages by truncating the left tail of the distribution. To test this hypothesis, we estimate an equation similar to equation (2), but that includes the log of real minimum minimum wage (lnMinMWit) as an independent variable rather than the standard deviation of the log of minimum wages: 0 1 it γtYRt μit T t 1 SD Wit ln MinMW Σ + = (ln ) = β + A negative and significant coefficient on the real minimum minimum wage variable would provide evidence in support of the hypothesis that an increase in the minimum minimum wage reduces inequality in actual wages. We estimate this equation with data on all workers and less educated workers and present the results in Table 4. In both cases, the coefficient on the real minimum minimum wage is positive and insignificant. These findings allows us to reject the hypothesis that an increase in the minimum minimum wage causes a reduction in inequality in actual wages in Costa Rica. Finally, to examine the relative impacts of changes in the dispersion and the levels of minimum wages, we estimate an equation that includes both the standard deviation of the log of the minimum wage and the real value of the minimum minimum wage as independent variables: (ln ) 0 1 (ln ) 2 it γtYRt μit . T t 1 SD Wit SD MWit ln MinMW Σ + = = β + β + β + (4) coefficients confirm our previous results. That is, they provide evidence that changes in the dispersion of minimum wages are positively and significantly correlated with the changes in the dispersion of the wages of workers without higher education, while changes in the real minimum minimum wage do not have statistically significant effects on the dispersion of wages. This finding is important since many studies use the level of the minimum wage as an explanatory factor in their analysis of the rising skilled to unskilled wage ratio over time (e.g., Bell, 1997 and Cortez, 2001). Whereas the minimum wage can increase the average wage, it is not clear that it should reduce dispersion. And when only one minimum wage is used in cases when there are multiple minimum wage (as in the case of studies of Mexico, e.g. Bell, 1997), then it is not surprising that there are no significant results. In Table 4, we present the coefficient estimates of β1 and β2 from estimating equations (4) using data for all workers and for less educated workers, separately. These estimated In summary, we show that Costa Rica experienced rising wage inequality in the 1990s, during the period it opened its economy to global forces. We know from Robbins and Gindling (1999) that the rise in the relative wages of more skilled workers in Costa Rica could be attributed in part to rising demand for more skilled workers due to trade liberalization. Work by Gindling and Trejos (2003) finds a number of other factors that can also help explain rising earnings inequality (including changes in the levels or supply of education) but notes there is a large part of the change in inequality that they cannot explain with such variables as education, gender, region, hours worked or job characteristics. In this paper, we test whether minimum wage legislation is part of the missing story. Our examination of Costa Rica’s complex minimum wage structure and its dynamics suggested three hypotheses: (1) The increase in the gap between the minimum wages of workers with and without higher education cause the gap between the actual wages of workers with and without higher education to increase (and therefore cause an increase in wage inequality); (2) The reduction in the inequality of minimum wages for workers without higher education cause a reduction in the inequality of actual wages for these workers; and (3) The reduction in the inequality of minimum wages for workers with higher education cause a reduction in the inequality of actual wages for these workers. We find that the evidence supports [this] each of these three hypotheses. The level of minimum MW was not found to be important in affecting the dispersion of wages. It was expected that the minimum minimum would truncate the left tale of the earnings distribution and as such lower inequality. However, in a complex system such as that in Costa Rica (or Mexico and Argentina), it is not clear the either the minimum MW or the average MW should affect the distribution since there are a multitude of wages that can affect the distribution at higher levels. Nevertheless, since many studies have used this variable in trying to explain changes in earnings inequality, we thought it worthwhile testing for it as well. In sum, the structure of minimum wages matters, and we found it contributes to wage inequality in Costa Rica. This suggests that countries with an interest in mitigating inequality arising from trade liberalization have the levers to do so with a multiple minimum wage policy. In Costa Rica, the reduction in the inequality of legal minimum wages from 1987 to 1992 contributed to a decline in actual wage inequality, mitigating the disequalizing impact of the trade liberalization (found by Robbins and Gindling, 1999). However, when the addition of legal minimum wages for university-educated workers in 1993 increased the gap between the minimum wages of worker with and without higher education, changes in the structure of minimum wages contributed to an increase in wage inequality.

International living wage is key and improves the economy.

Shirkosh 5 Mehdi Shirkosh (University of Western Sydney) “The Case for an International Minimum Wage in the Context of Free Trade.” MPRA Paper No. 2463 January 2005 http://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/2463/1/MPRA\_paper\_2463.pdf

The approach taken in this study is that an “international wage standard” is necessary for an increasingly globalised economy. Minimum wage standards have been established in the industrial countries from the late nineteenth century but few theorists have examined this measure as a global solution for unemployment, poverty and economic recession. **An international solution is important** in a world **where national economies are increasingly becoming** more **interdependent**, making it more difficult to maintain a welfare state in the framework of the national state. The hypothesis in this study is that **labour standards** (rights) **need to be integrated into the globalisation process via an international minimum** wage implemented through international organisations and free trade agreements. In effect this will bring the benefits of Keynesian theories on effective demand to the global economy. In other words, **an increase in minimum wages** around the world **will modify the income gap** **and increase consumption**, increase health and education of the masses across the globe **and**, thus, **their productivity**. In other words, **increased effective demand will reduce overcapacity and economic recession in the global economy**. The focus of the thesis is on the determination of wage standards in the world economy, looking primarily at the minimum wage standards in the developing countries as a minimum wage standard is clearly related to minimum wages in these low wage countries. The thesis will propose that the world economy (both industrial and third world countries) would benefit from **a global wage standard** as this **would increase** the masses’ **income and** therefore world aggregate **demand**, **which would in turn increase world production and growth.** The argument of the thesis is developed on the basis of the labour theory of value and the Keynesian theory of effective demand. Key alternate approaches to the determination of wages under capitalism will be discussed. The experiences of NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement) will then be used to test two of these approaches (Heckscher-Ohlin theory and unequal exchange theory) against recent historical evidence.

Living wage is key to bargaining power. Counterplans can’t solve.

**NYT 14** New York Times Editorial Board. “The Case for a Higher Minimum Wage.” February 8th, 2014. http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/09/opinion/sunday/the-case-for-a-higher-minimum-wage.html

WHAT’S THE POINT OF THE MINIMUM WAGE? Most people think of the minimum wage as the lowest legal hourly pay. That’s true, but it is really much more than that. As defined in the name of the law that established it — the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 — the minimum wage is a fundamental labor standard designed to protect workers, just as child labor laws and overtime pay rules do. Labor standards, like environmental standards and investor protections, are essential to a functional economy. Properly set and enforced, these standards check exploitation, pollution and speculation. In the process, they promote broad and rising prosperity, as well as public confidence. The **minimum wage** is specifically intended to **take aim at the** inherent **imbalance in power between employers and low-wage workers** that can push wages down to poverty levels. **A**n appropriate **wage floor** set by Congress effectively **substitutes for** the **bargaining power that low-wage workers lack**. **When low-end wages rise, poverty and inequality are reduced**. But that doesn’t mean the minimum wage is a government program to provide welfare, as critics sometimes imply in an attempt to link it to unpopular policies. An hourly minimum of $10.10, for example, as Democrats have proposed, would reduce the number of people living in poverty by 4.6 million, according to widely accepted research, without requiring the government to tax, borrow or spend. IS THERE AN ALTERNATIVE? No. **Other programs, including** food stamps, Medicaid and the **e**arned-**i**ncome **t**ax **c**redit, also **increase** the meager **resources** of low-wage workers, **but they do not provide bargaining power to claim a better wage**. In fact, they can drive wages down, because employers who pay poorly factor the government assistance into their wage scales. This is especially true of the earned-income tax credit, a taxpayer-provided wage subsidy that helps lift the income of working families above the poverty line. Conservatives often call for increases to the **E.I.T.C.** instead of a higher minimum wage, saying that a higher minimum acts as an unfair and unwise tax on low-wage employers. That’s a stretch, especially in light of rising corporate profits even as pay has dwindled. It also ignores how the tax credit **increases** the supply of **low-wage labor by encouraging more people to work, holding down** the **cost of labor for employers**. By one estimate, increasing the tax credit by 10 percent reduces the wages of high-school educated workers by 2 percent. There are good reasons to expand the tax credit for childless workers, as President Obama recently proposed. It is a successful antipoverty program and a capstone in the conservative agenda to emphasize work over welfare. But an expanded E.I.T.C. is no reason to stint on raising the minimum wage — just the opposite. **A higher minimum wage could** help **offset the wage-depressing effect of a bolstered E.I.T.C**., and would ensure that both taxpayers and employers do their part to make work pay.

Bargaining power is key to solve income inequality.

**Gupta 15** Sarita Gupta (executive director of Jobs with Justice). “Protect and Expand Workers’ Ability to Bargain.” Moyers and Company. January 20th, 2015. http://billmoyers.com/2015/01/20/protect-expand-workers-ability-bargain/

**Greedy corporations** have been on a decades-long bender to **take advantage of working people — depressing wages, benefits and job standards, which has led to record inequality** and poverty. At Jobs With Justice, we believe that **fighting poverty requires expanding** and protecting **the ability of workers to bargain with their employers** to demand higher wages, better working conditions and better living standards. As the nature of work changes, we look at collective bargaining through the union workplace campaign lens, but also through nontraditional forms, including legislative, policy, rulemaking and industry-wide interventions that put more money in workers’ pockets and improve standards and conditions for workers. **Only through bargaining do workers have** the **power to directly confront** the **corporate actors behind poverty and inequality**.

### Warming

Scenario A is warming. Warming is anthropogenic and on the rise. The newest evidence confirms.

**Freedman 15** Andrew Freedman (Masters in Climate and Society from Columbia University, and a Masters in Law and Diplomacy from The Fletcher School at Tufts University). “Study unearths impacts of our growing carbon emissions — and it's not pretty.” Mashable. February 25th, 2015. http://mashable.com/2015/02/25/greenhouse-effect-surface-data/

**Scientists** have directly **confirmed** what they have long assumed to be true: **Increasing** amounts of **g**reen**h**ouse **g**ase**s** in the atmosphere, such as carbon dioxide, **are trapping heat** from escaping back into space **and** are thereby **causing** global **warming**. The observations of what is known as radiative forcing were made over the course of 11 years between 2000 and 2010 from two locations in North America, in Oklahoma and the North Slope of Alaska. Highly specialized instruments in both locations were used to measure thermal infrared energy fluctuations and analyze the source of such changes. SEE ALSO: The white-hot beauty of Iceland in 11 stunning photos **The study**, published Wednesday in the advance online edition of the journal Nature, explores the Earth's energy account balance. It **found that over time, the planet is running a surplus of energy** at the surface, **causing global** air and ocean **temperatures to increase** with a wide variety of mostly negative impacts. Before this study, scientists already knew that the energy balance was tilted in the direction of a growing surplus, but they lacked precise measurements at the surface. **The researchers were** also **able to trace this** energy **surplus mainly to manmade emissions of carbon dioxide and** other greenhouse gases through the **burning of fossil fuels** such as coal and oil, as well as forest fires. The research provides observational evidence that the increased heating of the atmosphere during the period was due in large part to the increase in carbon dioxide concentrations at the time. The study found that the 22 parts per million increase in carbon dioxide during this period caused the amount of energy absorbed at the Earth's surface to increase by about two-tenths of a Watt per square meter per decade. "We see, for the first time in the field, the amplification of the greenhouse effect because there's more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to absorb what the Earth emits in response to incoming solar radiation," Daniel Feldman, a scientist in Berkeley Lab's Earth Sciences Division and lead author of the study, said in a press release. "Numerous studies show rising atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations, but our study provides the critical link between those concentrations and the addition of energy to the system, or the greenhouse effect," Feldman added. Earth's energy surplus is growing **The study's findings confirm longtime predictions as well as observations** of a manmade enhancement of the greenhouse effect, and also help to reinforce the results of many climate models that are predicated in part on accurately simulating the effects of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Income inequality causes warming-2 internal links.

1. Work Hours. Income inequality makes it difficult to work less; that causes GHG emissions. Wage increases solve.

**Cha 13** Mijin Cha (staff writer). “How Income Inequality Contributes to Climate Change.” Demos. February 8th, 2013. http://www.demos.org/blog/how-income-inequality-contributes-climate-change

Here’s another reason why **income inequality is** so destructive—it’s ruining our planet and **increasing** the severity of **climate change**. A new paper from the Center on Economic and Policy Research looks at a novel way to slow climate change: reduce the hours that we work. For reasons that are not entirely understood, **shorter work hours are linked with lower g**reen**h**ouse **g**as **emissions**. By just reducing the annual work hours by 0.5 percent for the rest of the century, one-quarter to one-half of global warming not locked in -- i.e. the warming that will already occur due to the 1990 levels of greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere -- would be eliminated. Unfortunately, the **high** level of income **inequality makes reducing work hours** very **difficult** in the U.S. Between 1973-2007, nearly two-thirds of all income gains went to just the top 1 percent of households. This very small minority of households could have their work hours reduced and absorb the accompanying decrease in pay. The vast majority of households, however, are working more hours and increasing productivity, but seeing a reduction in take home pay. As my colleague Joe Hines detailed, workers are increasing hours and output, but seeing their pay fall. **With** this level of **economic insecurity, workers cannot afford to work less**, even if it is better for the climate. ﻿ Americans already work many more hours more per year than western European countries. In 2005, Western European work hours per person were roughly 50 percent less than the U.S. The average German worker works 20 percent less per year than the average American. The greenhouse gas emissions per capita in America is nearly twice that of Germany. Again, the reasons for this relationship is not entirely clear but reduced work hours increases **leisure time**, which **gives people more time to cook, versus eating out, or walk, instead of drive**, and other sustainable practices. **Working less could** also **decrease commuting time and carbon footprint**. Unfortunately, only a few households can currently afford to work less and have more free time. **Increasing wages for the average worker is** not only good for our economy, it’s **good for our planet.**

2. Business compliance. Income inequality kills business compliance with international environmental agreements-those are uniquely key to solve warming.

**Wilkinson and Pickett 10** Richard Wilkinson (Professor Emeritus of Social Epidemiology at the University of Nottingham, retired in 2008) and Kate Pickett (Professor of Epidemiology in the Department of Health Sciences at the University of York and was a National Institute for Health Research Career Scientist from 2007-2012). “The impact of income inequalities on sustainable development in London.” Greater London Authority, March 2010.

**More Equal Societies are Greener** As well as helping to reduce consumerism, strengthening community life and enabling societies to respond more cohesively to crises, evidence shows that greater equality also leads people to treat environmental issues more seriously. **Because community life is stronger and people trust each other more** in more equal societies, they also seem to be more public spirited and more willing to work together towards shared objectives. The conflict between self and society is perhaps less stark and **people are more likely to do things** they feel are **for** the **public benefit**. Support for environmental policies is a sensitive indicator of the balance between feeling that life is about the pursuit of self-interests in opposition to the wider society, and the pursuit of common interests. Based on **data from the World Economic Forum**, Figure 25 **shows that business leaders in more equal countries regard complying with international environmental agreements as more important** than do their counterparts in less equal societies. **Believing that it is important to comply with international** environmental **agreements is** of course **essential if the world is to respond adequately to** the challenge of **climate change**.

Warming causes extinction from Earth exploding.

**Chalko 4** Dr. Tom J. Chalko, MSc, PhD (Head of Geophysics Division, Scientific E Research P/L, Mt Best, Australia). “No second chance? Can Earth explode as a result of Global Warming?” NU Journal of Discovery. Revised October 30th, 2004. http://nujournal.net/core.pdf

**Consequences of** global **warming are** far more **serious** than previously imagined. **The REAL danger** for our entire civilization **comes** not from slow climate changes, but **from overheating of the planetary interior. Life** on Earth **is possible** only **because of** the **efficient cooling of the** planetary **interior** - a process that is **limited primarily by the atmosphere**. This cooling is responsible for a thermal balance between the heat from the core reactor, the heat from the Sun and the radiation of heat into space, so that the average temperature on Earth’s surface is about 13 degrees Celsius. This article examines the possibility of **overheating and** the **“meltdown” of the solid planetary core due to** the atmospheric pollution trapping progressively more solar heat (**the** so-called **greenhouse effect**) and reducing the cooling rate of the planetary interior. The most serious consequence of such a ”meltdown” could be centrifugal segregation of unstable isotopes in the molten part of the spinning planetary core. Such segregation **can “enrich”** the **nuclear fuel in the core** to the point of **creating conditions for** a chain reaction and a **gigantic atomic explosion**. Will Earth become another ”asteroid belt” in the Solar system? It is common knowledge (experiencing seasons) that solar heat is the dominant factor that determines temperatures on the surface of Earth. Under the polar ice however, the contribution of solar heat is minimal and this is where the increasing contribution of the heat from the planetary interior can be seen best. Rising polar ocean temperatures and melting polar ice caps should therefore be the first symptoms of overheating of the inner core reactor. While politicians and businessmen debate the need for reducing greenhouse emissions and take pride to evade accepting any responsibility, the process of overheating the inner core reactor has already begun - polar oceans have become warmer and polar caps have begun to melt. Do we have enough imagination, intelligence and integrity to comprehend the danger before the situation becomes irreversible? **There will be NO SECOND CHANCE...**

Property rights and strict libertarianism devolve to protecting the environment and reducing warming.

Bruenig 11 Matt Bruenig “Environmentalism poses a problem for libertarian ideology” December 21st 2011 <http://mattbruenig.com/2011/12/21/environmentalism-poses-a-problem-for-libertarian-ideology/> JW 3/3/15

So I want to explain more clearly just how much environmentalists stick in the side of libertarian ideology. First, consider what libertarians of the sort Monbiot criticizes are really about philosophically: they favor a procedural justice account of the world based heavily on property rights. This is the newest face of libertarianism. Gone is the appeal to utility and desert. The modern libertarians try to prop up their political ideas almost solely through a rigid formalism of property rights. I have written before about the problem with the procedural accounts of property rights, but here I want to just accept the libertarian property rights premise. Somehow individuals can grab up pieces of the world and exclude those pieces from everyone else forever. Once those individuals become owners of their respective property, nobody else can touch that property or do anything whatsoever to that property without their consent. Coming onto my property without my consent is a form of trespass under this picture. Doing anything to my property — whether it be painting it, dumping stuff on it, or causing some other harm to it — is totally off limits. So environmentalists point out that carbon emissions are warming the planet, one consequence of which is that harm will be done to the property of others. Most environmentalists — being the leftists that they generally are — do not make too much of the property rights issues, but one certainly could. Coal plants release particulates into the air which land on other people’s property. But no permission is ever granted for that. Coal plants do not contract with every nearby property owner to allow for them to deposit small amounts of particulate matter on their neighbors’ land. They are guilty of a form of property trespass. Beyond that, all sorts of industrial processes have environmental externalities that put things into the air or the water that ultimately make their way into the bodies of others. This is a rights-infringing activity under the procedure-focused libertarian account. The act of some industry is causing pieces of matter to land on me and enter into my body. But I never contracted with them to allow them to do so. The air and the atmosphere is an especially problematic issue for libertarians. Who owns those things? Libertarians might try to argue that you own the air above your land, but air — or the matter that it is made up of — does not stay above your land; it moves around the world. Any matter released into the air is sure to find itself to someone else’s property, causing a violation. The atmosphere might seem like something nobody owns and therefore something anybody can dump things into. But with climate change, we know that greenhouse gas emissions are causing the world to warm, the consequences of which will include damage to the property of others all over the world. Yet again though, greenhouse gas emitters have not contracted with every single property owner in the world, making their emissions a violation of a very strict libertarian property rights ideology. The short of is that environmentalists totally smash open the idea that property rights theories can really account for who is permitted to do what with the land that they own. Almost all uses of land will entail some infringement on some other piece of land that is owned by someone else. So how can that ever be permitted? No story about freedom and property rights can ever justify the pollution of the air or the burning of fuels because those things affect the freedom and property rights of others. Those actions ultimately cause damage to surrounding property and people without getting any consent from those affected. They are the ethical equivalent — for honest libertarians — of punching someone in the face or breaking someone else’s window.

### Food Security

Scenario B is food security.

Income inequality causes famine and societal collapse. We’re close to the brink-policy actions must be taken.

**Motesharrei et al 14** Safa Motesharrei and Eugenia Kalnay (University of Maryland researchers) and Jorge Rivas (University of Minnesota researcher). “Human and nature dynamics (HANDY): Modeling inequality and use of resources in the collapse or sustainability of societies.” Science Direct. May 2014. http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0921800914000615

The scenarios most closely reflecting the reality of our world today are found in the third group of experiments (see the scenarios for an unequal society in Section 5.3), where we introduced economic stratification. Under such conditions, we find that collapse is difficult to avoid, which helps to explain why **economic stratification is** one of the elements **recurrently found in** past **collapsed societies**. Importantly, in the first of these unequal society scenarios, 5.3.1, the solution appears to be on a sustainable path for quite a long time, but even using an optimal depletion rate (δ\*) and starting with a very small number of Elites, the **Elites eventually consume too much, resulting in** a **famine among Commoners that** eventually **causes** the **collapse of society**. It is important to note that this Type-L **collapse is due to** an **inequality-induced famine that causes** a **loss of workers**, rather than a collapse of Nature. Despite appearing initially to be the same as the sustainable optimal solution obtained in the absence of Elites, economic stratification changes the final result: Elites' consumption keeps growing until the society collapses. The Mayan collapse – in which population never recovered even though nature did recover – is an example of a Type-L collapse, whereas the collapses in the Easter Island and the Fertile Crescent – where nature was depleted – are examples of a Type-N collapse. In scenario 5.3.2, with a larger depletion rate, the decline of the Commoners occurs faster, while the Elites are still thriving, but eventually the Commoners collapse completely, followed by the Elites. It is important to note that in both of these scenarios, the **Elites – due to their wealth – do not suffer** the **detrimental effects of** the **environmental collapse until** much **later than** the **Commoners. This** buffer of wealth **allows Elites to continue “business as usual” despite** the **impending catastrophe**. It is likely that this is an important mechanism that would help explain how historical collapses were allowed to occur by elites who appear to be oblivious to the catastrophic trajectory (most clearly apparent in the Roman and Mayan cases). This buffer effect is further reinforced by the long, apparently sustainable trajectory prior to the beginning of the collapse. While some members of society might raise the alarm that the system is moving towards an impending collapse and therefore advocate structural changes to society in order to avoid it, **Elites and their supporters**, who opposed making these changes, **could point to the** long **sustainable trajectory “so far” in support of doing nothing**. The final two scenarios in this set of experiments, 5.3.3 and 5.3.4, are designed to indicate the kinds of policies needed to avoid this catastrophic outcome. They show that, in the context of economic stratification, **inequality must be greatly reduced** and population growth must be maintained below critical levels in order **to avoid** a **societal collapse** (Daly, 2008).

Famine-induced societal collapse causes resource conflicts-outweighs other war impacts on probability.

**Vidal 12** John Vidal (the Guardian's environment editor) “UN warns of looming worldwide food crisis in 2013” The Guardian October 13th 2012 http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2012/oct/14/un-global-food-crisis-warning

"We've not been producing as much as we are consuming. That is why stocks are being run down. Supplies are now very tight across the world and reserves are at a very low level, leaving no room for unexpected events next year," said Abdolreza Abbassian, a senior economist with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). **With** food **consumption exceeding the amount grown for** six of **the past 11 years, countries have run down reserves** from an average of 107 days of consumption 10 years ago to under 74 days recently. **Prices of** main food crops such as **wheat** and maize **are now close to those that sparked riots in 25 countries in** 20**08**. FAO figures released this week suggest that 870 million people are malnourished and the food crisis is growing in the Middle East and Africa. Wheat production this year is expected to be 5.2% below 2011, with yields of most other crops, except rice, also falling, says the UN. The figures come as one of the world's leading environmentalists issued a warning that the global food supply system could collapse at any point, leaving hundreds of millions more people hungry, sparking widespread riots and bringing down governments. In a shocking new assessment of the prospects of meeting food needs, Lester Brown, president of the Earth policy research centre in Washington, says that the climate is no longer reliable and the demands for food are growing so fast that a breakdown is inevitable, unless urgent action is taken. "**Food shortages undermined** earlier **civilisations**. We are on the same path. **Each country is now fending for itself**. The world is living one year to the next," he writes in a new book. According to Brown, **we are seeing the start of a food supply breakdown with a dash** by speculators **to "grab" millions of** square **miles of** cheap **farmland**, the **doubling** of international **food prices** in a decade, and the dramatic rundown of countries' food reserves. This year, for the sixth time in 11 years, the world will consume more food than it produces, largely because of extreme weather in the US and other major food-exporting countries. Oxfam last week said that the price of key staples, including wheat and rice, may double in the next 20 years, threatening disastrous consequences for poor people who spend a large proportion of their income on food. In 2012, according to the FAO, food prices are already at close to record levels, having risen 1.4% in September following an increase of 6% in July. "We are entering a new era of rising food prices and spreading hunger. Food supplies are tightening everywhere and land is becoming the most sought-after commodity as the world shifts from an age of food abundance to one of scarcity," says Brown. "The geopolitics of food is fast overshadowing the geopolitics of oil." His warnings come as the UN and world governments reported that extreme heat and drought in the US and other major food-exporting countries had hit harvests badly and sent prices spiralling. "The situation we are in is not temporary. These things will happen all the time. Climate is in a state of flux and there is no normal any more. "We are beginning a new chapter. We will see food unrest in many more places. "**Armed aggression is no longer the principal threat to our future**. The overriding threats to this century are climate change, population growth, spreading water shortages and rising food prices," Brown says.

Communal conflicts are 100% probable.

Brinkman and Hendrix 11 Henk-Jan Brinkman (Chief, Policy, Planning and Application in the Peacebuilding Support Office of the United Nations.) and Cullen S. Hendrix (Assistant Professor, The College of William & Mary, and Fellow, Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security and Law, University of Texas at Austin) “Food Insecurity and Violent Conflict: Causes, Consequences, and Addressing the Challenges” World Food Programme Occasional Paper n° 24 July 2011 <http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/newsroom/wfp238358.pdf> JW 2/21/15

Civil conflict is the prevalent type of armed conflict in the world today (Harbom and Wallersteen, 2010). It is almost exclusively a phenomenon of countries with low levels of economic development and high levels of food insecurity. Sixty-five percent of the world’s food-insecure people live in seven countries: India, China, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan and Ethiopia (FAO, 2010), of which all but China have experienced civil conflict in the past decade, with DRC, Ethiopia, India and Pakistan currently embroiled in civil conflicts. Pinstrup-Andersen and Shimokawa (2008) find that poor health and nutrition [is] are associated with greater probability of civil conflict, though their findings are based on small sample sizes. Countries with lower per capita caloric intake are more prone to experience civil conflict, even accounting for their levels of economic development (Sobek and Boehmer, 2009). This relationship is stronger in those states where primary commodities make up a large proportion of their export profile. Some of the countries most plagued by conflict in the past 20 years are commodity-rich countries characterized by widespread hunger, such as Angola, DRC, Papua New Guinea and Sierra Leone. The mixture of hunger – which creates grievances – and the availability of valuable commodities – which can provide opportunities for rebel funding – is a volatile combination.

Food insecurity causes inter-state wars.

Brinkman and Hendrix 11 Henk-Jan Brinkman (Chief, Policy, Planning and Application in the Peacebuilding Support Office of the United Nations.) and Cullen S. Hendrix (Assistant Professor, The College of William & Mary, and Fellow, Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security and Law, University of Texas at Austin) “Food Insecurity and Violent Conflict: Causes, Consequences, and Addressing the Challenges” World Food Programme Occasional Paper n° 24 July 2011 <http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/newsroom/wfp238358.pdf> JW 2/21/15

The links between food insecurity and interstate war are less direct. While countries often go to war over territory, previous research has not focused directly on access to food or productive agricultural land as a major driver of conflict (Hensel, 2000). However, wars have been waged to reduce demographic pressures arising from the scarcity of arable land, the clearest examples being the move to acquire Lebensraum (“living space”) that motivated Nazi Germany’s aggression toward Poland and Eastern Europe (Hillgruber, 1981) and Japan’s invasion of China and Indochina (Natsios and Doley, 2009). Water, for drinking and for agriculture, is also a cause of conflict (Klare, 2002). Countries that share river basins are more likely to go to war than are other countries that border one another (Toset et al., 2000; Gleditsch et al., 2006). This relationship is strongest in countries with low levels of economic development. Institutions that manage conflicts over water and monitor and enforce agreements can significantly reduce the risk of war (Postel and Wolf, 2001). Jared Diamond (1997) has argued that for centuries military power was built on agricultural production. Zhang et al. (2007) show that long-term fluctuations in the prevalence of war followed cycles of temperature change over the period 1400–1900 CE, with more war during periods of relatively cooler temperatures and thus lower agricultural productivity and greater competition for resources. Similar findings linking cooler periods with more war have been established for Europe between 1000 and 1750 CE (Tol and Wagner, 2008).

Food wars go nuclear.

**Cribb 14** Julian, “Human extinction: it is possible?” Sydney Morning Herald, Published: April 2, 2014, p. http://www.smh.com.au/comment/human-extinction-it-is-possible-20140402-zqpln.html

However our own behaviour is liable to be a far more immediate determinant of human survival or extinction. Above two degrees – which we have already locked in – the world’s **food harvest is going to become increasingly unreliable**, as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned this week. **That means** mid-century **famines in** places like **India, China, the Middle East and Africa**. But what scientists cannot predict is how humans living in the tropics and subtropics will respond to this form of stress. So let us turn to the strategic and military think tanks, who like to explore such scenarios, instead. The Age of Consequences study by the US Centre for Strategic and International Studies says that under a 2.6 degree rise “nations around the world will be overwhelmed by the scale of change and pernicious challenges, such as pandemic disease. The **internal cohesion** of nations **will be under** great **stress**…as a result of a dramatic rise in migration and changes in agricultural patterns and water availability. The flooding of coastal communities around the world… has the potential to challenge regional and even national identities. **Armed conflict** between nations **over resources**… **is likely and nuclear war is possible**. The social consequences range from increased religious fervour to outright chaos.” Of five degrees – which the world is on course for by 2100 if present carbon emissions continue – it simply says the consequences are "inconceivable". **Eighteen nations** currently **have nuclear weapons** technology or access to it, **raising the stakes on nuclear conflict** to the highest level since the end of the Cold War. At the same time, with more than 4 billion people living in the world’s most vulnerable regions, scope for refugee tsunamis and pandemic disease is also large. It is on the basis of scenarios such as these that scientists like Peter Schellnhuber – **science advisor to German President** Angela Merkel – and Canadian author Gwynne Dyer have **warned of the** potential **loss of most of the human population in the conflicts, famines and pandemics** spinning out of climate impacts. Whether that adds up to extinction or not rather depends on how many of the world’s 20,000 nukes are let off in the process. These issues all involve assumptions about human, national and religious behaviour and are thus beyond the remit of scientific bodies like the IPCC, which can only hint at what they truly think will happen. So you are not getting the full picture from them.

# 2NR

## Reasonability

### edu > fairness

1. Schools fund debate-without education we wouldn’t be able to participate.

2. Education has more exportable value than fairness. We are only debaters during high school but we carry education we gain into the real world. This outweighs on timeframe-no one will care in 7 years whether or not this round was fair but we will care about the things we learned.

3. Flipping a coin is by definition fair but that would destroy the value of debate.

## A2 T-LW is Contractors

### C/I

Counter interp: aff can choose to defend either a living wage ordinance for city contractors or a federal living wage policy for all governments.

RTMW 11 “Minimum Wage Question and Answer” June 3rd 2011 Raise the Minimum Wage http://www.raisetheminimumwage.com/pages/qanda

What’s the difference between the minimum wage and a living wage? It is generally understood that the minimum wage – even in states with higher-than-federal rates - is inadequate to support a family of any size. As a result, the concept of a “living wage” has gained popularity, as advocates, academics, and policymakers have explored other ways of defining a wage level adequate to support a decent standard of living in America. Examples of these alternative standards include the Economic Policy Institute’s “Family Budget Calculator,” which compile the costs of essentials such as housing, food, child care, transportation and health care in different regions of the country and different family sizes to estimate the income required for families to meet basic needs at a minimally adequate level. The term “living wage” has also come to describe local ordinances that require employers that benefit from publicly funded service contracts and/or economic development subsidies to pay higher wages and/or offer health care coverage to their employees. Generally, living wage ordinances require wages that are significantly higher than federal or state minimum wages – typically $10.00-$14.00 an hour (sometimes set at the poverty level for a family of 4). After years of grassroots advocacy starting in the early 1990s, more than 120 cities across the nation currently have living wage laws. NELP has compiled a list of these ordinances and their provisions here.

A living wage can be applied nationally for all workers.

**Pollin 7** Robert Pollin (American economist. He is a professor of economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and founding co-director of its Political Economy Research Institute). “Making the Federal Minimum Wage a Living Wage.” New Labor Forum. Spring 2007. http://www.peri.umass.edu/fileadmin/pdf/other\_publication\_types/Pollin\_May\_2007\_NLF\_Column--Making\_Federal\_Min\_Wage\_a\_Living\_Wage.pdf

Lawrence Glickman’s 1997 book A Living Wage: American Workers and the Making of Consumer Society provides a good working definition of the term **living wage**: “It **is a wage** level **that offers workers the ability to support families to maintain self respect and** to have both the means and the leisure to **participate in** the **civic life** of the nation” (p. 66). How can we translate Glickman’s definition into dollars and cents, as we obviously must if living wages are to operate as a workable policy tool? When the modern living wage movement began in the mid-1990s, the approach that organizers took was to tie the living wage standard to the federal government’s official poverty line. They set the living wage at least high enough to enable a full-time worker to maintain his or her family above the official poverty line. But we confront an immediate problem with this approach, which is that the poverty line in the United States is seriously deficient. This is because it is calculated using an outdated approach which does not reflect the actual costs of providing for basic necessities other than food, including housing, health care, and child care. The poverty benchmarks also take no account of regional differences in the cost of living. As an average for the country, it is widely recognized among researchers that the official poverty benchmark for the country is probably about 40 to 50 percent too low. In high-cost urban areas such as Boston or Los Angeles, that figure should rise by roughly an additional 25 percent. **If we work with a revised poverty threshold at 140 percent of the official level, a national living wage standard** in 2009 tied to such a poverty line **would be about $11.50** an hour for a single mother with two children, working fulltime, with no vacation and no health care. In high cost areas, the figure would rise to about $14.40 an hour. But **poverty thresholds need not be the only benchmark** for defining a living wage. Glickman’s definition certainly suggests a more generous approach. As one outgrowth of the living wage movement, **researchers have recently developed** estimates of what they term “basic budget” or **“basic needs” standards for communities throughout the country**. These figures provide what researchers at the Economic Policy Institute call a “realistic picture of how much income it takes for a safe and decent standard of living.” Drawing from the Economic Policy Institute’s basic budget estimates, a living wage standard in 2009 for the same single mother with two children, working fulltime, would be about $17.50 an hour in Lincoln, Nebraska, and $31.60 in Boston.

I meet. Standards:

1. Textual accuracy.

A. if the framers wanted the resolution to be about contractors they would have said “contractors” NOT “employers” in general-the use of a broader term indicates specificity is not what is expected.

B. “Governments” represent the whole nation not specific cities.

**Random House** Random House Dictionary. “Government.” Dictionary.com. No date. http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/government

4. **a branch or service of the supreme authority of a state or nation,** taken as **representing the whole: “a dam built by the government”**

Textual accuracy is key to fairness and education since the resolution is the basis for all burdens-it’s where we get our prep.

2. Ground.

A. Most empirics are about state and federal minimum wage increases for a majority of low-wage workers. There aren’t a lot of studies about local living wage ordinances.

**Fairris et al 5** David Fairris et al 05 Department of Economics, UC Riverside and David Runsten North American Integration and Development Center, UCLA Carolina Briones and Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy and Jessica Goodheart Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy, “Examining The Evidence The Impact of the Los Angeles Living Wage Ordinance on Workers and Businesses”, UCLA, 2005,

Local governments are increasingly turning to living wage policies as a means to improve job quality for low-income workers. To date, more than 100 local governments around the country have passed living wage ordinances. Living wage laws set wage and benefit standards for workers employed by government contractors or other firms that have a financial relationship with the government. These laws have, in part, been a response to the stagnation of state and federal minimum wages, which have failed to keep pace with inflation. In addition, these laws represent a reaction to the growing interest in contracting out city services as a means to cut costs, a strategy that advocates argue penalizes the low wage workers who perform city services. However, **despite** the prominence and **continued growth in** the number of **living wage ordinances, only a handful of** retrospective **studies** of firms **have been published on the impacts of these laws**. This study is the first to combine a random sample survey of affected firms and workers, a control group analysis of low-wage employers, and a matched firm and worker dataset. These elements make us confident that our survey results both isolate the effects of the living wage and accurately represent the experiences of living wage workers and firms.” (6)

Empirics are key aff ground since they constitute most of the topic lit-kills fairness since I lose access to arguments that help me win.

B. Lots of cities have living wage ordinances already

**ALICE 13** American Legislative and Issue Campaign Exchange. “Local Living Wage Ordinances.” November 2013. http://www.cows.org/\_data/documents/1556.pdf

**Living wage ordinances are enacted by local governments** to raise job standards for workers at firms that do business with a city or county, or that benefit from taxpayer assistance. **At least 140 communities in the U.S.** have **passed such laws over the past two decades**, and there is now a significant body of research on their effect. The evidence shows that living wage ordinances raise wages for low-income workers, often by a significant amount, with few if any measurable negative effects on either employment or taxes. Any government considering a living wage ordinance of its own should consider the track record of living wage laws in other communities in order to implement the best living wage law possible. This white paper provides these details.

This means he can easily non-unique aff advantages by claiming that the impact should have already happened for previous ordinances.

### A2 field context

1. Even if their evidence is about past ordinances, it’s legally possible for living wage laws to apply to all local businesses. Rigorous legal analysis proves.

**Gertner 6** Jon Gertner. “What Is a Living Wage?” New York Times. January 15th, 2006. http://www.nytimes.com/2006/01/15/magazine/15wage.html?pagewanted=all

For a few weeks in the summer of 1995, Jen **Kern spent** her **days** at a table in the Library of Congress in Washington, **poring over the fine print of state constitutions** from around the country. This was, at the time, a somewhat-eccentric strategy to fight poverty in America. Kern was not a high-powered lawyer or politician; she was 25 and held a low-paying, policy-related job at Acorn, the national community organization. Yet to understand why living-wage campaigns matter - where they began, what they mean and why they inspire such passion and hope - it helps to consider what Kern was doing years ago in the library, reading obscure legislation from states like Missouri and New Mexico. A few months earlier, she and her colleagues at Acorn witnessed an energetic grass-roots campaign in Baltimore, led by a coalition of church groups and labor unions. Workers in some of Baltimore's homeless shelters and soup kitchens had noticed something new and troubling about many of the visitors coming in for meals and shelter: they happened to have full-time jobs. In response, local religious leaders successfully persuaded the City Council to raise the base pay for city contract workers to $6.10 an hour from $4.25, the federal minimum at the time. The Baltimore campaign was ostensibly about money. But to those who thought about it more deeply, it was about the force of particular moral propositions: first, that work should be rewarded, and second, that no one who works full time should have to live in poverty. So Kern and another colleague were dispatched to find out if what happened in Baltimore could be tried - and expanded - elsewhere. As she plowed through documents, Kern was unsure whether to look for a particular law or the absence of one. Really, what she was trying to do was compile a list of places in the U.S. where citizens or officials could legally mount campaigns to raise the minimum wage above the federal standard. In other words, she needed to know if anything stood in the way, like a state regulation or a court decision. What **she discovered** was **that in many states a law more ambitious than Baltimore's - one that didn't apply to only city contractors but to all local businesses - seemed permissible.**

2. T-The counter-interp is better for real-world education because we get to learn about both city contractors and retail or fast-food companies whose low wages have been the center of recent news.

### A2 Semantic First

1. Adhering to the strict resolution text does not produce fair and educational debate-the res is written by traditional 80 years old for lay debaters. We should be allowed to

2. the ‘topicality rule’ is nonsense-you can evaluate my standards like that too. The ‘resolvability’ and ‘depth’ rule also promote fair and educational outcomes.