



February 21, 2018

The Honorable Thomas M. Middleton
Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 0543 – Labor and Employment – Payment of the Minimum Wage Required (Fight for Fifteen) – **Oppose**

Dear Senator Middleton:

This bill seeks to expand the increase in the state minimum wage beyond the previous increases instituted in prior sessions, and to tie subsequent increases to the CPI.

Minimum wage jobs are not, and never have been, intended to support a family (or even to support an individual). Minimum wage jobs require very little knowledge, skill or experience and require minimal training and as such, the labor pool is normally quite large. A job pays what the *job* is worth, and is *not* a commentary or judgement on the worth of the *person* holding the job, as the current popular argument would have us believe. That view is contrary to good economic practices. A physicist with ten degrees will still only be paid \$8.00 an hour to flip burgers at a fast-food restaurant.

Paying a person more for the same low-level job does nothing to increase that person's skill or prepare him or her to obtain a better paying job. Our efforts would be much better served by business and government working together to provide and encourage opportunities for people to increase their skills/education and by creating an environment that is conducive to growing and attracting higher paying jobs. Forcing such mandates on the very entities that provide the jobs is counterproductive to the effort to elevate more people into a better standard of living.

As with the many other bills seeking to increase the state's minimum wage, The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, a business advocacy organization of over 600 members, opposes this bill and therefore requests that you give it an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Mike McMullin'.

Mike McMullin
President
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

CC: Senator Justin Ready
Delegate Haven Shoemaker

**Carroll County Chamber of Commerce • 9 East Main Street • Westminster, MD 21157
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