



January 28, 2019

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley
Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 0280 - Labor and Employment - Payment of Wages - Minimum Wage and Enforcement (Fight for Fifteen) – Oppose

Dear Senator Kelley:

SB 0280 again seeks to expand the increase in the state minimum wage beyond previous increases instituted in prior sessions, and to tie subsequent increases to the CPI. As has been pointed out by many, 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 or no previous training. 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.

Since paying more for the same low-level job does nothing to increase a person's skill or prepare him or her to obtain a better paying job, we submit that 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*. Recently, several very large employers announced plans to increase their incoming wage rates (Amazon, Target, Costco, Wal-Mart). These employers made their decisions based on their own economic factors, as well as an analysis of competitive factors that affect their industries. That is how a healthy economy works. Forcing universal mandates on the very entities that provide the jobs is counterproductive to the effort to elevate more people into a better standard of living.

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 black ink 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
Phone: 410-848-9050 • Fax: 410-876-1023 • www.carrollcountychamber.org**