



January 24, 2023

Senate Finance Committee  
Senator Melony Griffith  
3 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: SB 0081 - Labor and Employment - State Minimum Wage Rate - Acceleration (Fight for Fifteen Acceleration Act of 2023) – Oppose**

Dear Senator Griffith:

This bill will accelerate the increase in the minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour. There are several reasons why the proposed acceleration is ill-advised at this time.

Budgets for the current year have already been set for most, if not all businesses. These changes will add unnecessary financial pressure while these same businesses are still recovering from the damage done by the pandemic. Furthermore, those businesses that can afford to do so are already increasing wages in an effort to remain competitive in the market for scarce labor. This market pressure – not government mandate – is what *should* be driving wage increases, along with the value of any particular job.

In fact, recent studies have shown that in reality, there are few “minimum wage” jobs left, due to both appropriate market pressure, as well as government requirements. Adding a further artificial layer to this process will simply compound the wage compression facing these businesses.

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, a business advocacy organization of nearly 700 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 April Rose

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