



Testimony to the Senate Finance Committee

SB0803 Labor and Employment - Payment of Minimum Wage - Tipped Employees

Bill Sponsor: Senator Ellis

Committee: Finance

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, Executive Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0803 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district of the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Currently, tipped workers rely on the vicissitudes of customers' generosity to supplement their \$3.63 per hour wage paid by their Maryland employers. Tipping, a hold-over from slavery, perpetuates racism and sexism. Disadvantaged workers disproportionately work at lower-cost sit-down restaurants. In addition, tipped employees endure more harassment due to the unequal dynamic between these workers and their customers. A single minimum wage for all workers would not only rectify these injustices but reduce the poverty rate.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition believes servers and others who receive tips should receive the same minimum wage as everyone else, and with a law to require it, businesses will not be forced into unfair competition. We ask that the Committee issue a favorable report on SB0803.