



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE 803

Labor and Employment – Payment of Minimum Wage – Tipped Employees

Before Senate Finance Committee

By Willie Flowers, President, NAACP Maryland State Conference

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CHAIRMAN GRIFFITH AND COMMITTEE IT IS A PLEASURE TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON AN IMPORTANT PIECE OF LEGISLATION THAT WILL ENHANCE THE LIVES OF MANY PEOPLE IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND.

AS YOU KNOW, THE PRICE OF EVERYTHING HAS RISEN IN THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS. WE KNOW ABOUT THE EXPECTED RAISE GIVEN TO HOURLY WORKERS BUT THE TIP WORKERS HAVE BEEN LEFT OFF OF THE BILL.

TIP WORKERS SHOULD BE INCLUDED SO THAT WORKERS CAN BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY AT AN ECONOMIC INCREASE LIKE ALL OTHER WORKERS.

A FACTOR THAT WEIGHS HEAVILY ON THE NEED OF INCREASING THE WAGE IS THE MAJOR IMPACT THAT TECHNOLOGY HAS HAD ON THE WORKFORCE. SPECIFICALLY TALKING ABOUT SERVICE JOBS AND FRONTLINE STAFFS AT PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT LIKE BARS, HOTELS RESTAURANTS TECHNOLOGY HAS ALLOWED EMPLOYERS TO CHANGE OVERALL BUDGETS BECAUSE SOME OF THE JOBS LIKE THE SELF-CHECK AT THE GROCERY STORES HAVE ALLOWED THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO REPLACE SOME JOBS WITH DEVICES AND INNOVATIONS THAT HAVE AUTOMATED WORKFORCES. WHILE THIS CAN BE VIEWED ANY WAY YOU LIKE IT WHAT IS DOES MORE THAN ANYTHING IS IT ALLOWS EMPLOYERS TO SAVE MONEY AND THIS SHOULD GIVE THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO EMBRACE AN INCREASE IN WAGES TO \$15.

FINALLY, THIS BILL WILL BE A TRUE INCENTIVE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO JOIN THE WORKFORCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THEIR TAKE HOME PAY IS ENOUGH TO BE PROUD OF.

THE NAACP MARYLAND STATE CONFERENCE SUPPORTS THIS INCREASE FOR THE WORKING PEOPLE OF MARYLAND.