



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 25, 2020

Honorable Chairman, Delegate Dereck E. Davis

Vice Chair, Delegate Kathleen M. Dumais

Members of the Economic Matters Committee

**Re:** HB-1018 -Labor and Employment - Economic stabilization Act - Revisions

House Bill 1018 is legislation that would ensure Maryland's business partners value their workers. This bill requires mandatory guidelines for employers faced with a reduction in operations. Hundreds of Shoppers Food employees lost their jobs over the holiday season due to the company's inability to follow the necessary steps of alerting their workers. With less than two weeks' notice, some families were left to find new sources of income. The treatment displayed by Shoppers Food was unconscionable. Many of the workers were local residents who dedicated their lives to ensuring the success of Shoppers Food.

The purpose of this bill is to ensure that working families in Maryland are never left behind. When a person dedicates their life to a company they should be treated with the same level of respect in return. Sixty days is not an appropriate amount of time to let someone know they have been let go. The decision by a company to leave an area is made well before the sixty-day notice. Considering this, ninety days is an appropriate amount of time to alert families of any changes being made by the company. In the State of Maryland, working families should have the security that when a long term employer leaves they will get the benefit of notice, job training and severance pay.

Please join me in supporting our working families and please give a **favorable** report to House Bill 1018.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wanika Fisher". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Wanika B. Fisher Esq.