



**Testimony on SB502**  
***Maryland Wage and Hour Law - Agricultural Stands, Retail Farms, and Farmers' Markets***  
**Position: UNFAVORABLE**

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Finance Committee:

My name is Ricarra Jones, and I am the Political Director with 1199SEIU- the largest healthcare union in the nation, where we represent over 10,000 healthcare workers in Maryland. Given the number of essential workers we represent as well as the number of families that the Fight for 15 legislation will benefit now and, in the future, we adamantly oppose SB502.

Individuals who are employed at an agricultural stand, a retail farm, or a farmers' market are not individuals who need their wages cut to any extent. If passed, this legislation allows businesses to avoid the cost of paying these workers fair wages and thus, devaluing both the worker and the work that they execute.

By enacting this legislation, it would not only create a larger strain on the worker to make ends meet, but it would also cause the State to provide more financial support for these families including programs like SNAP and subsidized housing. Contrary to this position, if workers are able to benefit from the Fight for \$15 legislation, these workers would be better able to contribute to society and not worry about the basic need of being able to feed themselves, and their families.

For the reasons described above, we adamantly ask this Committee to oppose SB502.

Respectfully,

Ricarra Jones  
Maryland/DC Political Director  
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