

Testimony on SB555: Fair Wage Act of 2023
Position: Favorable

Dear Chairperson Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Susan Allen and I live in Annapolis MD. I am a volunteer with the MD Poor People's Campaign—we have no paid staff—and our organization strongly supports SB555 with cost-of-living increases.

This morning, the Washington Post editorial by Heather Long states that the **current base minimum wage should be \$17.50**—BASED ON INFLATION SINCE 2019.

16 million wage workers are now earning \$20-an-hour since the pandemic began—and still can't pay their bills.

In a State Circle interview, one of the Economic Matters members stated that workers are already earning \$15 so he objected only to the COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT—the part of the bill that is ESSENTIAL TO WORKING FAMILIES.

Perhaps all the workers in Delegate Pippy's District 4 are earning the minimum of \$75,000 per year that a Maryland family of 4 needs to survive. But that is not true in Anne Arundel County.

Personally, I am supporting this Fair Wage Act because most of my close relatives have worked as hourly wage earners and have struggled financially.

In this expensive state, \$15.00 an hour is not a living wage. Cost of living adjustments are crucial.

Respectfully submitted,

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