



**House Economic Matters Committee**

**March 30, 2023**

**Senate Bill 555**

**Fair Wage Act of 2023 Support**

NCADD-Maryland supports Senate Bill 555 to accelerate the planned increase in the minimum wage. What does an increase in the minimum wage mean? Increases in the minimum wage mean:

- A more robust economy as people can better afford to spend on essentials such as food and gas;
- Greater stability in housing as people can better afford their rents or mortgage payments;
- More stability in employment as workers are more satisfied and less anxious about how to pay the bills; and
- An increase in revenue from taxes and a lessening of reliance on public assistance programs.

Because of inflation, speeding up the planned increase in the minimum wage is especially important. When people earn more money they are better able to meet their basic needs. This in turn can help support people in recovery when there is less stress that could lead to relapse.

We are appreciative of the funding the Governor has included in the proposed FY 24 budget that would ensure the planned Medicaid reimbursement rate increases would also accelerate with passage of this bill and we urge a favorable report.

*The Maryland Affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD-Maryland) is a statewide organization that works to influence public and private policies on addiction, treatment, and recovery, reduce the stigma associated with the disease, and improve the understanding of addictions and the recovery process. We advocate for and with individuals and families who are affected by alcoholism and drug addiction.*