

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#/0555, Fair Wage Act of 2023.

I approach the aims of this bill from my Jewish religious belief's framework. Malachi 3:5 –“I will come near to you to judgement and I will be a swift witness against ...those who oppress the hireling in his wages”. This view of how the Lord views the payment of fair wages should be the principle for a favorable report on this bill.

It is common sense that the lifting of our fellows through increased wages creates an economic boon as more disposable income means more purchasing power for essentials like food and gas and lodging. The business paying more in wages finds new customers spending their new income in their establishments. Indexing the increases adds predictability to the equation for the wage payer and wage earner in retaining purchasing power despite increased costs due to inflation.

This bill addresses a commonsense approach to removing families from economic distress and provides increased equity and justice to those struggling in poverty. Stronger families means a stronger economy and a stronger Maryland. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0555.**