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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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Senate Bill 466 - Wage and Hour Law
Minor League Baseball Players - Exemption

Vice Chair Klausmeier and distinguished members of the Finance Committee;

It is my pleasure to share with you **Senate Bill: 466 Wage and Hour Law - Minor League Baseball Players - Exemption**. This bill would codify that a minor league baseball player, who is part of the minor league players union, is exempt from wage and hour laws, just like other salaried employees in the State.

On March 29, 2023, MLB and the Major League Baseball Players Association agreed to the first-ever Collective Bargaining Agreement between the 30 MLB Clubs and minor league players.

This bill celebrates a weekly salary for minor league players, highly-subsidized health benefits, retirement benefits, housing benefits, Club-provided meals, per diems on the road, salary continuation for disability resulting from work-related injury, tuition assistance and other benefits that we would readily associate with other salaried employees in our great state.

Minor League ball players are not the kind of employee who was contemplated by our wage and hour laws, they don't work shifts, they don't have regular hours.

Imagine a player having to leave mid-game because they had reached the hours cap. Indeed, the driving purpose of the minor leagues is to allow good players to become great, to have the time, and space to hone and perfect their skills ahead of a hopeful Major League career.

They don't fit neatly into our standard salaried exemption, their job duties aren't the same as a white-collar office worker, or a manager, or any of the other standards currently exempted. To accommodate this uniqueness, and to accommodate this historic collective bargaining agreement this bill is before you.

We are not staking out new ground: We are in concert with federal law as well as states whose labor laws reflect the federal law. Moreover, legislation has already passed in California, Florida, and North Carolina; bills are now pending in Washington and Arizona and New York.

Included in my testimony today is a signed letter from the players union expressing support for this legislation.

This bill will see Minor League Ball players working lives radically improve, a goal we all share here in Maryland, at the same time it allows the players what they most desire, the time and space to reach their potential and fulfil their big league dreams.

I respectfully request a favorable report on **Senate Bill 466**.

