



3/3/2025

**RE: SUPPORT FOR SB 938 – FRAUD PREVENTION AND WORKERS
PROTECTIONS, PROHIBITIONS, PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT**

Wage theft stands as a practice that hurts not only workers but communities and states. It stands to only enrich the bosses. The significant financial harm it inflicts on workers, particularly low wage earners, creates a negative impact on local economies.

Wage theft directly impacts a worker's ability to meet basic needs, pushing them closer to poverty or reliance on government assistance programs such as public assistance. For companies that engage in wage theft, they gain an unfair advantage over businesses that comply with labor laws. Wage theft undermines competition and creates a decreased tax revenue due to lost income.

When workers are not paid their full wages, the government loses out on tax revenue which in turn tends to put a strain on public services. Tax revenue is not the only place the government loses. States aren't paid the amounts they should be for unemployment insurance and workers compensation.

Low wage workers are often exploited for their labor. There are language barriers; deportation concerns and lack of awareness of their rights that make them disproportionately affected by wage theft.

I support penalties to deter employers from engaging in this practice. I also support giving the current Attorney General, Anthony Brown, the legal authority to be an added enforcement against wage theft. Enforcement and penalties, in one form or the other, should be applied when employers fail to pay overtime; misclassify employees as independent contractors; don't pay minimum wage and don't pay for all hours worked, as well as for infractions.

The Communications Workers of America represent over 5,000 workers in the state of Maryland and stand with our other brothers and sisters in labor who work in food service; retail; agriculture; janitorial services, healthcare, construction and hospitality, in supporting SB 938. It is time to put a stop to wage theft lawlessness.

I ask that you rise in support of this bill as well.

In solidarity,

Lisa M. Fazzini

Lisa M. Fazzini
CWA D2-13 Staff Representative
Serving CWA Locals in MD/DC