

March 9, 2026

Opposition to SB 886– Consumer Protection and Labor and Employment – Food Service Facilities and Minimum Wage

To the Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

My name is Antonio Ferrer, and I am the Owner of Warriors of Grace Karate in Severn, Maryland. We have operated here for 19 years and currently employ 7 people. I am writing in opposition to SB 886.

I understand the intent of this bill is to raise worker earnings, and I care deeply about my employees. But this proposal would create economic consequences many businesses like mine simply cannot absorb - threatening jobs, increasing costs, and undermining stability.

Raising the minimum wage to \$25 per hour by 2030 – a 67% increase – is not a small adjustment. For our business, that would mean:

- An estimated annual payroll increase of approximately \$64,000. Currently our payroll is \$96,000. The increase would put us at \$160,000 a year which would make us have to close our doors.
- We would not be able to raise our prices to our customers enough to pay our employees.
- Difficult decisions about staffing levels, hours, or closing our doors.

This would not only affect entry-level positions. It would impact wages across our entire team due to compression.

What concerns me most is placing this policy into the Maryland Constitution. Embedding it there would effectively lock in sweeping economic mandates with little ability to correct course if the consequences prove damaging. That level of permanence is risky for employers, workers and communities alike.

I am not opposed to fair wages. I am concerned about sustainability – and whether businesses like mine will be able to continue operating and employing Marylanders under this structure.

I respectfully ask you to oppose SB 886

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Antonio Ferrer