

HB 1229/SB 886: Consumer Protection and Labor and Employment - Food Service Facilities and Minimum Wage: Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Government, Labor & Elections Committee:

I am writing to respectfully **oppose HB 1229/SB 886**, concerning *Consumer Protection and Labor and Employment – Food Service Facilities and Minimum Wage*.

While supporting workers and promoting fair compensation are important goals, this legislation raises serious concerns about the economic impact on Maryland's food service industry—particularly small, locally owned restaurants and family-operated establishments.

Food service businesses operate on narrow profit margins and face rising costs related to food supplies, utilities, insurance, and compliance requirements. Additional mandated wage increases or restructuring of compensation systems could place significant financial strain on these businesses. Many establishments may be forced to raise prices, reduce staff hours, limit hiring, or, in some cases, close entirely.

Such consequences would not only affect business owners but also employees and consumers. Reduced staffing levels can limit earning opportunities for workers, while higher menu prices place added burdens on families already coping with inflation and increased living expenses.

Maryland should take a balanced approach that is necessary to protect jobs, sustain small businesses, and maintain affordability for consumers.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **oppose HB 1229/SB 886**.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals