

Robert D. Hauck, LLC
Certified Public Accountant

February 24, 2026

Opposition to House Bill 1229- Consumer Protection and Labor Employment- Food Service Facilities and Minimum Wage.

To the Members of the House Government, Labor and Elections Committee:

My name is Robert Hauck I own two restaurants The Severn Inn in Annapolis, Maryland and Libations Bistro in Millersville Maryland. We have been in business for over 20 years and between the two locations employ 80 people. I'm writing to oppose HB 1229.

It is obvious that you haven't learned anything from the last time you raised the minimum wage. Before that increase in minimum wage, we sold a hamburger for twelve (\$12) dollars today same burger is sixteen (\$16). Do you know why? Because not only did the minimum wage in the restaurant increase for the starting positions, but that also caused an increase in all the wages in the restaurant. Why because the people making \$20 an hour see others getting a \$5 dollar raise, they need a \$5 raise. So do the folks working in the supply houses, they need an additional \$5 an hour and the delivery driver the same thing.

This thinking only causes inflation and serves no purpose. When someone comes to work every day and shows they can do the work we give them a raise above the minimum wage because they have proven they are worth it.

Your legislation has no carve outs for students who work jobs like hostess, food runners they don't need a living wage they are living at home. They add to the price increase for a hamburger.

In our restaurants after the last increase, we only open Wednesday through Sunday and close two hours earlier every day. We had to do that to eliminate one entire shift to keep our costs down.

The tip credit is essential for our business. Our average server, bartender, makes 18 per hour now and the tips are spread proportionately between the entire front of the house, therefore they all benefit from tips.

I don't oppose fair wages. I am concerned about sustainability, and whether businesses like mine will be able to continue operating and employing Marylanders under this proposed structure.

I respectfully ask you to oppose HB 1229.

Sincerely

Robert D. Hauck

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