

I strongly oppose HB1229 – Raising Minimum Wages

I would like to express concern about the impact of this bill on small employers and Maryland's overall economic competitiveness.

First, although the bill provides a slightly different wage schedule for small employers, they are still required to reach \$25 per hour within a relatively short timeframe. Many small businesses operate on very thin profit margins. Unlike large corporations, they often lack the financial cushion to absorb rapid increases in labor costs. This could result in reduced hiring, fewer hours for employees, higher prices for consumers, or even business closures.

Second, Maryland's proposed wage levels would significantly exceed those of many neighboring states. Businesses located near state borders may find it more difficult to compete with companies operating in states with lower labor costs. Over time, this could discourage new business investment and make it harder for Maryland to remain economically competitive.

For these reasons, I urge careful consideration of the potential unintended consequences of this legislation.

Please vote Unfavorable on HB1229.

Nancy Shih

Howard County