



SEIU MARYLAND & DC STATE COUNCIL

Testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 965

Labor & Employment – Minimum Wage – Allegany and Garrett Counties

House Economic Matters Committee

March 10, 2020, 1:00 PM

Submitted by Terrence Cavanagh, Executive Director

Service Employees International Union, Maryland & DC State Council, urges you to oppose HB 965, yet another bill that which would take away scheduled pay increases for low-wage workers.

With over two million members, the SEIU is the largest union in North America. We are focused on uniting workers in the sectors health care, public services, and property services to improve lives and the services we provide. We represent over 45,000 workers in Maryland and Washington, DC. SEIU has been the leading supporter of the ***Fight for Fifteen*** campaign in Maryland and across the country.

We have a number of objections to this legislation:

- The Fight for Fifteen law was went into effect a little more than two months ago. The General Assembly ought to give time to the laws it passes.
- The Economic Matters Committee worked very hard in passing last year’s minimum wage bill and rejected the kind of regionalism this bill represents.
- Fifteen dollars and hour is a low-wage in all parts of Maryland today and will be even lower in 2025 when all employers with 15 of more employees get there.
- The Legislature recognized several areas for special attention by either exempting them or having a slower implementation. Employers in Allegany and Garrett ought to pursue those, if needed.
- Now if not the time for the Economic Matters Committee to allow for the erosion of wages on a recently passed law. Not for particular industries or geographic areas, unless a clear cut case can be made – by workers and employers.

We ask you to give a **unfavorable** report to **HB 965**.

Thank you.

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