



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 299

Labor & Employment Standards & Conditions – Definition of Employer

House Economic Matters Committee

1:00pm

February 1, 2022

Submitted by Julia Gross and Kali Schumitz, Co-Chairs

Member Agencies:

211 Maryland

Advocates for Children and Youth

Baltimore Jewish Council

Behavioral Health System Baltimore

CASH Campaign of Maryland

Catholic Charities

Energy Advocates

Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

Family League of Baltimore

Fuel Fund of Maryland

Health Care for the Homeless

Homeless Persons

Representation Project

Job Opportunities Task Force

Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services,
Inc.

League of Women Voters of Maryland

Loyola University Maryland

Maryland Catholic Conference

Maryland Center on Economic Policy

Maryland Community Action
Partnership

Maryland Family Network

Maryland Food Bank

Maryland Hunger Solutions

Paul's Place

Public Justice Center

St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore

Welfare Advocates

Marylanders Against Poverty

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Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) strongly supports HB 299, which would add a general definition of “employer” to be used in interpreting provision of law related to employment standards and conditions. HB 299 would correct an issue that is hurting low-wage workers by making it more difficult for them to recover all wages owed when they suffer wage theft.

The language that HB 299 would add to the definition of “employer” in the Maryland Wage Payment and Collection law is already present in *seven other statutes* in Title 3 of the Labor and Employment Article, including the Equal Pay for Equal Work Law, Wage and Hour Law, Wage Lien Law, Parental Leave Act, Healthy Working Families Act, Criminal History Screening Law, and Secure Maryland Wages Act. It is past time for this language to be in the Maryland Wage Payment and Collection Law, as well, in recognition of the increased use of outsourcing, especially in low-wage work.

MAP appreciates your consideration and urges the committee to issue a favorable report for HB 299.

Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) is a coalition of service providers, faith communities, and advocacy organizations advancing statewide public policies and programs necessary to alleviate the burdens faced by Marylanders living in or near poverty, and to address the underlying systemic causes of poverty.