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**TO:** The Honorable C.T. Wilson  
Chair, Economic Matters Committee

**FROM:** Hannibal G. Williams II Kemerer  
Chief Counsel, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

**RE:** HB549 - Fair Wage Act of 2023 – **Support**

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The Office of the Attorney General requests a favorable report on Speaker Jones' bill, House Bill 549 the Fair Wage Act of 2023. House Bill 549 accelerates the planned increase to a \$15 minimum wage, fully implementing that wage for all covered employers as of October 1, 2023. This legislation will increase the family income of hundreds of thousands of Marylanders and their children. Furthermore, the bill also indexes the minimum wage to the Consumer Price Index beginning on July 1, 2025, capped at 5% per year. Indexing allows for employee wages to keep pace with inflation and provides more predictability for businesses who can plan around regularly scheduled, incremental increases in labor costs.

For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General requests a favorable report on House Bill 549.

cc: Committee Members

This bill letter is a statement of the Office of Attorney General's policy position on the referenced pending legislation. For a legal or constitutional analysis of the bill, Members of the House and Senate should consult with the Counsel to the General Assembly, Sandy Brantley. She can be reached at 410-946-5600 or sbrantley@oag.state.md.us.

