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BILL NO.: **HB 549**

TITLE: Fair Wage Act of 2023

SPONSOR: The Speaker (By Req. Administration)

COMMITTEE: Economic Matters

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 27, 2023

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** HB 549 - Fair Wage Act of 2023. This legislation would accelerate the timeframe for increasing Maryland’s minimum wage to \$15/hr.

Every person who goes to work deserves to come home at the end of the day with a sense of accomplishment and a decent wage in their pocket. Unfortunately, too many of our neighbors are still living paycheck to paycheck – making difficult decisions and sacrifices to ensure they can put food on the table for their families. For them and their loved ones, a broken car or a medical emergency can mean financial disaster.

Baltimore County Executive John Olszewski has consistently fought to help working families make ends meet and reduce financial strain whenever possible. As a Delegate, County Executive Olszewski championed legislation to establish paid sick leave. In his current role, the County Executive’s latest budget ensures that all Baltimore County employees will earn a \$15 minimum wage. House Bill 549 will help lift up working families across the State of Maryland by raising the minimum wage to \$15 before the end of this year, much sooner than the initial targeted date of 2025. This vital legislation will bring the relief so many of our neighbors, friends, and loved ones desperately need.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 549. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.