

Sayers, Margery

From: Christine Carey <christinecarey1@outlook.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 4, 2021 6:57 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: info@livingwagehoco.org
Subject: Please pass CB82-2021 to raise the minimum wage in Howard County!

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council, I am writing to urge you to VOTE YES on CB82-2021 and raise the minimum wage in Howard County. Howard County is one of the wealthiest in the country, however, more than 1 in 4 households struggle to meet basic needs. Every person deserves the dignity of a paycheck that reflects the importance of their work and provides for their essential needs. Wages that fall well below the level needed to afford these basic living costs create additional barriers to employment and access to opportunities to achieve economic prosperity. Too many of our neighbors are struggling now, and cannot wait until the state-level mandate of a \$15/hour minimum wage fully takes effect as late as 2026. Other Maryland counties have already raised their minimum wage beyond the state-mandated minimum, and Howard County should follow suit. I urge you to pass CB82-2021 without delay, to provide essential support for Howard County residents and move Howard County closer to ensuring a living wage for all workers. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely,

-Christine Carey

Sayers, Margery

From: Abram Fox <abramfox@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 10:53 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Testimony in support of CB82-2021

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council members,

I write in support of CB82-2021, a bill recently advanced by Councilman Jones and Councilwoman Rigby.

A great strength of our county is our sense of community. Increasing the minimum wage is a direct and tangible way that the County Council can support members of the Howard County community by ensuring that those who work hard can earn enough to survive. Pay disparity has been an ongoing issue as the state minimum wage, even with its increases, has not kept pace with the rate of productivity of our workers. This disparity has been even more evident since last March, as some of the people most likely to earn minimum wage - those working in food preparation and serving, cleaning, healthcare support, etc. - proved themselves time and time again as the backbone of our society and our economy.

By increasing the minimum wage, we can better support the Black and Hispanic workers in our community, especially women from those groups, who are disproportionately underpaid. We can directly take on the scourge of poverty in our community, lifting people who work hard and work long hours into positions of greater financial security, no longer living paycheck to paycheck or wondering how to feed their families. Increasing the minimum wage will provide an economic stimulus to our community - those workers earning more will spend more in the place they live, Howard County - and would save taxpayer money as fewer county residents will need to rely on assistance programs.

While there are plenty of specific reasons for supporting a minimum wage increase, I think the most compelling one is a moral argument. Low-wage workers are valued members of our community just like you or I. They deserve dignity, and so does their work.

Sincerely,

Abram Fox
Ellicott City

Sayers, Margery

From: James Reiser <areiser1@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 7:51 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: info@livingwagehoco.org
Subject: Please pass CB82-2021 to raise the minimum wage in Howard County!

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Ann Smith-Reiser
columbia, MD

Sayers, Margery

From: c b <cball3394@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 7:31 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: info@livingwagehoco.org
Subject: Please pass CB82-2021 to raise the minimum wage in Howard County!

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Too many of our neighbors are struggling now, and cannot wait until the state-level mandate of a \$15/hour minimum wage fully takes effect as late as 2026. Other Maryland counties have already raised their minimum wage beyond the state-mandated minimum, and Howard County should follow suit.

I urge you to pass CB82-2021 without delay, to provide essential support for Howard County residents and move Howard County closer to ensuring a living wage for all workers. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Candace Ball

Sent from iPhone.

Sayers, Margery

From: Jenny Afkinich <jafkinich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 7:05 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: info@livingwagehoco.org
Subject: Please pass CB82-2021 to raise the minimum wage in Howard County!

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Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to VOTE YES on CB82-2021 and raise the minimum wage in Howard County. Everyone deserves the opportunity to support themselves and their families. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jenny Afkinich, MSW PhD

Sayers, Margery

From: Baker, Kevin
Sent: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 11:59 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Howard County Minimum Wage

For Related Documents under CB82.

From: William Low <will@rathskellermd.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 11:43 AM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Howard County Minimum Wage

Dear Councilmember Walsh,

Thank you for representing District 1 so well. I am writing to you today in hopes that you will vote against the Howard County minimum wage bill introduced by your fellow Councilmembers Rigby and Jones. As I'm sure you can relate, COVID-19 has not been kind to the restaurant industry. Even after most restrictions to dining have been lifted, we have had to manage finding staff, deal with rising costs of food, and tolerate supply chain logistics. Raising the minimum wage above the state level will make it even more difficult for restaurants, especially the ones in your district. Our payroll costs are already through the roof and raising menu prices to offset the rising cost of labor will make us less competitive than restaurants in neighboring counties. Thank you for taking the time to read my email and I hope you consider my concerns as a business owner in District 1.

God Bless,

Will

--

Ave Christus Rex

William Low
Owner/Manager
Rathskeller
5782 Main St.
Elkridge, MD 21075
(410)796-1530
www.rathskellermd.com
@rathskellermd

Sayers, Margery

From: Tina Horn <tinahorn_cae@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 11:53 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: info@livingwagehoco.org
Subject: Please pass CB82-2021 to raise the minimum wage in Howard County!

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Dear Howard County Council,

Along with so many others, I am writing to urge you to VOTE YES on CB82-2021 and raise the minimum wage in Howard County. Howard County is one of the wealthiest in the country, however, more than 1 in 4 households struggle to meet their basic needs. That is appalling. Every single person deserves the dignity of a paycheck that reflects the importance of their work and provides for their essential needs. Wages that fall well below the level needed to afford these basic living costs create additional barriers to employment and access to opportunities to achieve economic prosperity. Too many of our neighbors are struggling now, and cannot wait until the state-level mandate of a \$15/hour minimum wage fully takes effect as late as 2026. Other Maryland counties have already raised their minimum wage beyond the state-mandated minimum, and Howard County should follow suit. I urge you to pass CB82-2021 without delay, to provide essential support for Howard County residents and move Howard County closer to ensuring a living wage for all workers. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christine (Tina) Horn
Wilde Lake
Columbia MD

Sayers, Margery

From: Jessica Mahajan <jessica_mahajan@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 11:51 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: info@livingwagehoco.org
Subject: Please pass CB82-2021 to raise the minimum wage in Howard County!

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Sincerely,

Jessica Mahajan
District 2

Jessica



Achieve with us.

November 3, 2021

Dear County Council Members:

My name is Cindy Parr, and I am writing to voice my support of CB82-2021, introduced by Council members Christiana Rigby and Opel Jones. As I am sure you are aware, the disabilities field, like many entities is experiencing a staffing crisis. While there are multiple reasons for this hardship, the primary one is hourly wage.

The Arc of Howard County provides disabilities services for people with disabilities, and we know the importance of this legislation. Currently, we supply a portfolio of services to more than 260 adults with disabilities in the Howard County community.

Our organization has been in existence 60 years and in that time, we have never experienced the hiring challenges we currently face.

The State of Maryland determined several years ago that there needed to be an increase in our minimum wage to help Marylanders working in lower paying jobs earn dollars that could help them live better lives. Their goal was to achieve \$15 an hour by 2025.

CB82-2021 is in alignment with the state's legislation and is necessary for employers like The Arc of Howard County to attract and retain staff. Neighboring counties Montgomery and Prince George's have also adopted minimum wage legislation that achieves \$15 an hour sooner than 2025. I would encourage the Council to consider providing supplemental funding like Montgomery and Prince George's to assist in achieving this goal.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Parr
Executive Director