

KATHY SZELIGA
Legislative District 7A
Baltimore County

Annapolis Office
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 322
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3698 · 301-858-3698
800-492-7122 Ext. 3698
Fax 410-841-3023 · 301-858-3023
Kathy.Szeliga@house.state.md.us



The Maryland House of Delegates
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

RYAN NAWROCKI
Legislative District 7A
Baltimore County

Annapolis Office
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 322
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3289 · 301-858-3289
800-492-7122 Ext. 3289
Ryan.Nawrocki@house.state.md.us

Gov. Moore's Minimum Wage Proposal Puts Maryland at a Disadvantage
Delegates Szeliga and Nawrocki respond to HB549/SB555

Annapolis, Maryland - February 27, 2023 - Delegates Ryan Nawrocki and Kathy Szeliga are surprised by the Governor's proposal to accelerate the increase in the minimum wage just 40 days into his term. "This move seems to be pandering to the left without examining the economic impact this move will have on Marylanders," commented Delegate Kathy Szeliga. Maryland is already on course to increase the minimum wage to \$15 by 2025. "The most egregious part of the proposal is the automatic increase without a lawmaker's vote," said Delegate Ryan Nawrocki. Moore's bill includes an annual increase tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Taking away the requirement for lawmakers to vote on these decisions is an abuse of power.

Delegate Szeliga pointed out, "This accelerated wage scheme will create larger unemployment issues among young people who will be elbowed out of these jobs by automation and fewer opportunities. The fiscal note predicts a decrease in demand for labor."

"No longer will a vacation to Ocean City be affordable or dining out at a locally owned restaurant. These are important career building jobs that are typically staffed by young people as a supplement to their educational and professional pursuits," commented Delegate Nawrocki.

Maryland's minimum wage will be more than double the federal minimum wage and 50% or more higher than neighboring states. Delaware, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia range between \$7.24 (the federal minimum wage) to \$12 an hour. This legislation will make Maryland businesses hire fewer people as they compete with neighboring states. Maryland consumers can get to another state within a mere one-hour drive of anywhere. Ultimately, this decision costs the consumer in a time when inflation is hurting every Marylander's pocket. For these reasons and others, Delegates Nawrocki and Szeliga find this proposal to be a bad economic policy with far reaching, negative consequences for all Marylanders.