

Progressive Maryland
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Support for Bill 35-23, County Minimum Wage - Tipped Employees

Council President Glass, Council Vice President Friedson, and members of the County Council:

Progressive Maryland strongly supports the passage of Bill 35-23, County Minimum Wage - Tipped Employees. We thank Councilmember Jawando for introducing this vital legislation.

Progressive Maryland is a grassroots nonprofit organization with regional chapters from Frederick to the Lower Shore and more than 10,000 members and supporters in Montgomery County. In addition, there are dozens of affiliated community, faith, and labor organizations across the state that stand behind our work. Our mission is to improve the lives of working families in Maryland.

Many of our Montgomery County members and supporters work in the service industry, where it is common to be underpaid, overworked, and unprotected from abusive practices by employers. Bill 35-23 is an important correction, bringing tipped workers into the same legal protections around their wages that all other workers in our county already enjoy.

Contrary to the fearmongering we hear from wealthy industry magnates, in the seven states where the subminimum wage has already been eliminated, “workers and businesses in tipped industries have done as well as or better” than those in low-wage states, according to the Center for American Progress.

Washington DC is leading the way in our region on abolishing the sub-minimum wage, and Montgomery County should do the same. This is a chance to get resources to some of our most vulnerable residents who work hard to make our county great, on a reasonable phase-out timetable that gives business owners time to adjust.

We respectfully ask that you **support** Bill 35-23, County Minimum Wage - Tipped Employees.

Max Socol
On behalf of Progressive Maryland