

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

2644 Riva Road • Annapolis • Maryland • 21401

BILL: HB664 LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT - PAYMENT OF THE MINIMUM WAGE REQUIRED (FIGHT FOR FIFTEEN)

HEARING DATE: FEBRUARY 27, 2018

COMMITTEE: ECONOMIC MATTERS

POSITION: OPPOSE

CONTACT PERSON: Jeanette Ortiz, Esq., *Legislative & Policy Counsel* (410.703.5352)

The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County opposes **HB664 LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT PAYMENT OF THE MINIMUM WAGE REQUIRED (FIGHT FOR FIFTEEN)**. This bill would increase the State minimum wage rate that is in effect for each year through 2023. The minimum wage rate would increase, except under certain circumstances, based on the annual growth in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for the Washington-Baltimore metropolitan area.

Current Maryland minimum wage is \$9.25 per hour and is scheduled to increase to \$10.10 per hour on July 1, 2018. HB664 would dramatically increase the State's current and scheduled minimum wage. This bill would result in a significant increase of local government expenditures to pay additional wages to minimum wage government employees. Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) currently has approximately 700 employees who earn less than the wage that would ultimately be required under HB664. Anne Arundel County is a fiscally conservative and tax revenue capped jurisdiction and, as such, this proposed legislation would have a negative fiscal impact on AACPS in the midst of fiscally challenging times for the school system.

Accordingly, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB664.