

Coalition of Asian Pacific American Democrats - MD (CAPAD - MD)

Mission: Empower Asian Pacific Americans through the political process.

Officers: Co-chairs: Ngoc Chu, MD; Gloria Marquez Sundaresan; Vice Chairs: Martin Ma, Ph.D.; Partha Pillai, Ph.D.; Charles Sye; Secretary: Caryn Hines, Esq.; Treasurer: Eric Nee, Esq.

CAPAD Supports the Living Wage Bill (HB430)

The Coalition of Asian Pacific American Democrats in Maryland (CAPAD – MD) strongly supports the Living Wage bill (HB430).

This bill will raise the overall quality of life for residents in Maryland and helps both communities: business and working families.

The Living Wage bill helps provide families the basic necessities of life. When the well - being of the family is taken care of, families are more united; breadwinners get to spend more time with their families instead of working in 2 or 3 other jobs to make ends meet. Parents spend more time at home to address issues such as nutrition, education, health issues like drug addiction and other social problems. This bill will allow parents to provide guidance to their children who are the future workers in the state. This bill will also make it possible for parents to provide preventive measures to keep the cost down for state services such as health, education, housing, transportation, etc. Bill HB430 will definitely save millions of taxpayers' money that can be used to solve other problems to improve the general welfare of all residents in Maryland.

The Living Wage bill passed in Montgomery County about 3 years ago, has provided positive results for business. Likewise, this bill should be enacted state-wide. Contractors claim that turnover of employees has greatly diminished. The bill has saved business owners the expense of continually hiring and training of employees. Most importantly, employees feel appreciated for receiving a fair wage of \$11.95 per hour. Workers get invested and concentrate in their jobs and don't have to work elsewhere. This instills loyalty and job satisfaction in the workforce. A valued worker is more productive and efficient in the performance of their duties. Workers who are focused in only one job provide quality service to clients and customers. This translates to more profits for business owners and more revenues for the state. The Living Wage therefore is also good for business.

In conclusion, the Coalition of Asian Pacific American Democrats in Maryland strongly supports Living Wage bill because it is the right thing to do to support working families and the benefits the bill provides to businesses. This bill makes sense for all the reasons stated above. Most importantly, the Living Wage bill will improve the quality of life for all residents in Maryland.

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Dr. Ngoc Chu
CAPAD, Co-Chair

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