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# Raising the minimum wage is just a start

March 17, 2014

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A recent Sun poll showed that a majority of voters in every part of the state support increasing the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour ("Most Marylanders back raising minimum wage," Feb. 17).

As chief of staff for a large, Maryland-based health and human services nonprofit, I'd like to add my voice to that support but also recognize that there is more work to be done.

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While groundbreaking, this increase still amounts to an annual income of less than \$23,000. That is far less than what it takes to live here. It is unlikely to significantly reduce the soaring demand for non-profit health and human services that organizations like Volunteers of America Chesapeake provide.

The minimum wage increase, a living wage requirement and the political commitment which spawned them are critical to any serious effort to address the widening income inequality in our region and throughout the nation. It's a start.

Franklyn Baker, Lanham

The writer is chief of staff and external affairs officer for Volunteers of America Chesapeake.

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