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# Protect Families from Being Pushed into Poverty: Increase Wage Exemption to the Increased State Minimum Wage

Support HB1814 (Delegate Krizek)

## The Problem:

The wage exemption under current Virginia law is based solely upon the federal minimum wage, which has not increased for a long time. As a result, the exemption is steadily decreasing and allowing creditors to push Virginia families into bankruptcy with a wage garnishment. The wage exemption should be increased along with the increase in the state minimum wage.

## HB 1814's Solution:

HB1814 makes a small change to Virginia's law that exempts enough wages from a creditor's garnishment so that the worker can keep at least the minimum wage.

- Under current law, when a worker's wages are garnished, enough wages are exempt from deduction to allow the worker to take home the federal minimum wage.
- This legislation updates this law to give the worker the benefit of the state minimum wage if it is higher than the federal minimum wage.

**This law will prevent creditors from pushing consumers and their families into poverty. Exemption laws preserve basic items of property from seizure by creditors so that consumers can continue to work productively and support themselves and their families. Creditors can still collect their debts, but workers can protect enough wages to survive.**

**More Information:** Jay Speer • [jay@vplc.org](mailto:jay@vplc.org) • (804) 351-5268