DATE: January 30, 2020

TO: State Innovation Exchange

FROM: Ben Lazarus and Gabby Weisberg, TargetSmart

RE: Maryland Statewide Issues Poll, Key Findings on Economic Policy

Our recent survey of registered voters across Maryland[1] paints the picture of a state that is broadly open to, and eager for, a series of progressive economic- and workplace-related policies.

As stagnating wages continue to take a toll on the middle class, we find that Maryland voters are incredibly supportive of a litany of policies that will put more money into the pockets of working families. This includes 70 percent support (and just 29 percent opposition) for **raising the state's minimum wage to $15 an hour**, 87 percent support (12

Broad and Intense Support for a Progressive Economic Agenda in Maryland

Paid family leave
87% support, 12% oppose

Pay stub transparency
86% support, 11% oppose

Employer retaliation protections
86% support, 11% oppose

Expanded EITC
81% support, 15% oppose

Overtime and a half
80% support, 13% oppose

Public sector collective bargaining
78% support, 19% oppose

$15 minimum wage legislation
70% support, 29% oppose

Preventing employee misclassification
69% support, 25% oppose

Children's savings account program
66% support, 27% oppose

percent opposition) for establishing a program that provides **six weeks of guaranteed paid family leave,** 80 percent support (13 percent opposition) for **guaranteeing overtime and a half pay** for those who make $55,000 a year or less when they work more than 40 hours a week, 81 percent support (15 percent opposition) for **expanding the state's earned income tax credit**, and 66 percent support (27 percent opposition) for the creation of a **Children's Savings Account program** in Maryland.

Maryland voters are also almost universally on board with a series of reforms meant to protect workers against predatory employers in Maryland. This includes 86 percent support (11 percent opposition) for **protecting workers against employer retaliation**, 86 percent support (11 percent opposition) for **paystub transparency,** and 69 percent support (25 percent opposition) for **preventing the misclassification of workers**. Moreover, roughly 8-in-10 Maryland voters (78 percent support to 19 percent oppose) support **extending collective bargaining rights** to all public sector employees.

Overall, these findings speak to the lack a marketplace for a conservative, pro-industry agenda in the Free State, and lead us to characterize the full breadth of these findings as a ***consensus, pro-worker economic agenda***.

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[1] TargetSmart designed and administered this telephone survey conducted by professional interviewers. The survey reached 500 adults, age 18 or older, who indicated they were registered to vote in Maryland. The survey was conducted from December 4-8, 2019. The sample was randomly selected from TargetSmart's enhanced voter file. Sixty-seven percent of respondents were reached on wireless phones (63 percent unweighted). Quotas were assigned to reflect the demographic distribution of registered voters in Maryland. The data were weighted by age and TargetSmart High School Only Score to ensure an accurate reflection of the population. The overall margin of error is +/- 4.4%. The margin of error for subgroups is larger and varies. Percentage totals may not add up precisely due to rounding.