

Time To Care Act of 2022
HB496: Support
Ann Marie Buck
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Economic Matters Committee
February 15, 2022

Dear Chair C.T. Wilson and Economic Matters Committee Members,

Thank you and your committee for your consideration of this important issue that is crucial to the wellbeing of Maryland workers, their families, and our communities.

As a Baltimore City business owner, I am joining a coalition of diverse Maryland businesses in support of the Time to Care Act. The act will provide individuals and their families with the financial security and support as they welcome a new child to their home or face the unexpected burdens associated with a serious health event.

A person should not be required to make the impossible choice of caring for their new child, or an ill family member, or their own health needs versus attending work. The Time to Care Act will allow Marylanders to take paid leave without the monetary strain of unpaid leave. The Act enumerates the insurance funds be pooled from both employers and employees; thus, it is a shared burden of all Marylanders to take care of those in need.

As a small business with 10+ employees, paid family leave is good for our business and our employees. Programs like Paid Family Leave strengthen employee loyalty and morale.

When Paid Family Leave is administered through an insurance program, small businesses benefit because the cost is shared. As many of us have experienced through offering these benefits, first-time moms who take paid leave are more likely to return to the same employer.

For these reasons, I am signing on in support of the Time to Care Coalition to urge the Maryland Legislature to pass legislation establishing a Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program.

Thank you,

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