



Peter Franchot
Comptroller

TESTIMONY OF COMPTROLLER PETER FRANCHOT
Support - House Bill 8 - Labor and Employment - Family and Medical Leave
Insurance Program - Establishment (Time to Care Act of 2022)

Economic Matters Committee
February 15, 2022

Chairman Wilson, Vice Chairman Crosby and members of the Committee, it is my pleasure to provide testimony in **support** of **House Bill 8 - Labor and Employment - Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Establishment (Time to Care Act of 2022)**. I would like to thank Delegate Kriselda Valderrama for sponsoring this important legislation, and the Committee for providing the opportunity for my testimony to be heard.

One of the many inequities that the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed is our country's lack of paid family and medical leave policies. The measure before you today is vitally important to correct that inequity and ensure that workers can care for themselves and loved ones in times of illness without jeopardizing their financial security or employment.

It shouldn't take a global pandemic for us to recognize that all workers deserve the freedom and peace of mind that comes with having a paid family and medical leave program. Maryland should declare that it is both good public health policy and good economics to give workers the ability to stay home when they are sick, or care for family members when they need help.

For the reasons stated above, I respectfully request a **favorable report** for House Bill 8. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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