

Time to Care Act of 2022 HB8 : SUPPORT Josie Rhodes RedCanoeCafe@gmail.com

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 means so much to Maryland workers and their families.

I am a Baltimore City business owner and I am joining a coalition of diverse Maryland businesses to support the Time to Care Act so that families can have the financial security to care for themselves and their loved ones after the birth of a child, or in the case of serious illness.

Marylanders face impossible choices when new children are born or adopted, and when serious personal or family health needs arise. The Time to Care Act would make paid leave available to Maryland workers for up to 12 weeks following the birth or adoption of a child, and when needed, to provide care for a family member or oneself. The leave would be funded through an insurance pool, into which workers and their employers contribute.

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.