



**Time to Care Act of 2022**  
**HB8: SUPPORT**  
**Andy Shallal**  
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*Economic Matters Committee*  
*February 15, 2022*

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

Since opening our first establishment in 2005, BusBoys and Poets has grown to have 9 restaurants and bookstores across Maryland and DC. I'm proud to have just opened a new restaurant in Baltimore City. I believe one of the reasons we've continued to grow is because we deeply value our employees. For that reason, I am joining a coalition of diverse Maryland businesses to support the Time to Care Act.

At BusBoys and Poets, we take pride in investing in our local communities and work closely with leaders to inspire social change. Offering Programs like Paid Family Leave will ensure 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.

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.

I thank the committee for your time and consideration.