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**Written Testimony Submitted to the
Maryland Senate Finance Committee
SB 275 - Labor and Employment – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program –
Establishment (Time to Care Act of 2022)
February 10, 2022**

SUPPORT

Chair Kelley and members of the committee, on behalf of the American Federation of Teachers - Maryland (AFT-MD), which represents more than 20,000 educators, government, and healthcare workers across Maryland, I urge you to support SB 275 - Labor and Employment – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Establishment (Time to Care Act of 2022).

The Time to Care Act will help address the economic hardship when caring for new babies, loved ones with serious health conditions, or yourself. An employees' ability to take up to 12 weeks of paid leave will help Maryland families meet their financial needs and commitments while caring for their family.

An OpinionWorks study conducted on December 15, 2021 - shows 88% of Maryland voters favor the creation of “a family and medical leave insurance program that would provide workers with partial wage replacement for up to 12 weeks when they need time away from work to care for a new child, seriously ill family member, or their own serious health condition.”

We need comprehensive paid family and medical leave in Maryland. A true paid family and medical leave policy must be cost-effective for workers, employers, and the government; with employers contributing at least as much as employees. We must ensure that our paid family and medical leave program covers all working people; covers all the well-established reasons people need leave; reflects an inclusive definition of family; and provides up to 12 weeks of leave and job security. SB 275 has all of these key components of a meaningful paid family and medical leave. We ask this committee for a favorable report on SB 275. Thank you.

Kenya Campbell
President