

Hearing Date: 2/10  
Dr. Susannah Feldman  
Columbia, MD 21044

**TESTIMONY ON SB#275 - POSITION: (FAVORABLE/FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS/)**

Labor and Employment – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Establishment (Time to Care Act of 2022)

TO: Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Dr. Susannah Feldman

OPENING: My name is Susannah Feldman. I am a resident of District 12. I am submitting this testimony (in support of/in support with amendments/) (SB275), Time to Care Act of 2022.

I am a member of Columbia Jewish Congregation and a member of its Social Action Committee. I believe that it is essential to have the ability to take care of family members and oneself during illness. Jewish tradition elevates the family to a sacred status, and mandates that the community assure that individual family needs be met, both for community survival and in service of the Jewish goal of repairing our world.

I am a retired faculty member and taught in the Biological Sciences Department at Towson University for 31 years. I started as a part-time Adjunct Instructor in 1994, became full-time two years later, and finally retired as a Senior Lecturer. Only in the last position (the last nine years) did I become eligible for paid benefits. I was fortunate to have medical coverage through my husband's job; some of my colleagues did not have that option, and were forced to bear the full financial burdens of life's vicissitudes. The ongoing pandemic has highlighted how life-altering and devastating the cost of such burdens can be, with people unable to afford to take a few days off if they became ill (and infectious to others), all the way to losing their housing and going hungry.

The Time to Care Act is well overdue to help our citizens cope with a variety of medical and personal issues. I believe this is a fair and balanced law that will improve our economy by improving the working conditions for so many employees.

All Marylanders who work and who need time to care for relatives or themselves, especially new parents, people with chronic conditions, families of military personnel, low-income and part-time workers, small business employees, and self-employed people. Many minorities are disproportionately unable to take time off to care for themselves or family members. I

**respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable vote on SB#275.**