

February 10, 2022

Mara Greengrass
Rockville, MD 20852

TESTIMONY ON (SB0275) - POSITION: FAVORABLE

**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: Mara R. Greengrass

My name is Mara Greengrass and I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0275, the Time to Care Act.

I am a mother, 22-year resident of Rockville, member of Congregation Beth El in Bethesda, and a frequent board member of the Randolph Civic Association.

As a Jew, a mother, and a daughter, I care deeply about paid family and medical leave. My Jewish values include bikur cholim, a requirement to visit and help the sick, not just with your presence but also with concrete tasks, as well as pikuach nefesh, the preservation of life.

When I was pregnant with my daughter, Yael, I was fortunate enough to be an employee of an organization that provided paid leave. This was a tremendous relief when I was put on 3 months of bed rest.

Four years later, pregnant with my son, Barak, I once again had to go on bed rest. But at that time, I was self-employed and had no paid leave. I worked from my bed through most of the pregnancy, including a period in which I was so nauseated that I had to lie next to my laptop and slowly turn my head to look at it.

Nine years after that, my mother was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and I had to swiftly move my parents out of their house and into two different care facilities. Once again, I was self-employed and had no paid leave. Although my coworkers have been nothing but supportive, the fact remains that if I don't work, I don't get paid.

Paid leave would have enabled me to focus on my children and my parents instead of taking meetings and writing reports in hospital rooms. Paid family and medical leave will enable Marylanders like me—freelancers, contractors, consultants, and others who don't receive employer benefits—to take care of their own health and the health of their loved ones.

The proposed paid family and medical leave closes a loophole that has left people like me out in the cold. I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0275.