



Bill No: SB275
Title: Labor and Employment - Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program -Establishment (Time to Care Act of 2022)
Committee: Finance
Hearing: February 10, 2022
Position: FAVORABLE

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) is a statewide coalition of women's groups and individuals formed to provide a non-partisan, independent voice for Maryland women and families. MLAW's purpose is to advocate for legislation affecting women and families. To accomplish this goal, MLAW creates an annual legislative agenda with issues voted on by MLAW members and endorsed by organizations and individuals from all over Maryland. **SB275 - Labor and Employment - Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program -Establishment (Time to Care Act of 2022)** is a priority on the 2022 MLAW Agenda and we urge your support.

SB275 would ensure Marylanders no longer have to choose between the job they need and the family they love by establishing a family and medical leave insurance fund to provide partial wage replacement for employees who take leave to care for a new child, a family member with a serious health condition, their own serious medical condition, or a family member's military deployment.

Unpaid leave forces too many Americans, especially those whose needs are the greatest, to choose between income and family when illness strikes, when new babies arrive, or when the needs of a family member with a disability intensify.

A lot of populations have been affected during this pandemic, but families are dependent on working women. In Maryland, 79% of mothers are in the workforce. Nearly 25% of women take 10 or fewer days of parental leave, potentially putting themselves and their children at risk physically and emotionally. We have seen that women are being disproportionately affected because they are more likely to leave work to care for their families. While Maryland saw a net gain of 13,000 men entering the labor force from January 2020 to June 2021, the number of working women fell by 57,000 in the same time frame, according to the Maryland Department of Labor.

The "Time to Care Act" establishes a Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) program through which employees may take up to 12 weeks of paid leave from their jobs to care for new children, other family members with serious health conditions or disabilities, or themselves.

The program provides wage replacement during the leave period ranging from \$50 to \$1000 per week. The benefit level is calculated based on the employee's weekly wage and the State's average weekly wage. In general, the amount received by low-income employees reflects a higher percentage of their total wages.

Wage replacement benefits are drawn from a fund pool into which employers and employees contribute. Contributions are mandatory and are calculated based on the employee's wages.

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The job security and partial wage replacement offered by paid family and medical leave will provide women economic security until they return to the workforce.

For these reasons, MLAW strongly urges the passage of SB275.



MLAW 2022 Supporting Organizations

The following organizations have signed on in support of our 2022 Legislative Agenda:

Allegany County Women's Action Coalition
American Association of University Women - Anne Arundel County
American Association of University Women - Maryland
American Association of University Women - Garrett Branch
Anne Arundel County Commission for Women
Anne Arundel County NOW (National Organization for Women)
Baltimore County Commission for Women
Baltimore Jewish Council
Baltimore NOW (National Organization for Women)
Business and Professional Women of Maryland
For All Seasons, Inc.
Forward Justice Maryland
Indivisible Central Maryland
Make A Difference Monday
Maryland NOW (National Organization for Women)
Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence
Maryland Women's Heritage Center
MoCoWoMen
MomsRising
Montgomery County NOW (National Organization for Women)
Montgomery County Commission for Women
Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club
National Coalition For Sexual Freedom
National Organization for Women
NCBW Anne Arundel County Chapter
Prince George's County Alumnae Chapter
Prince George's County Drug Policy Coalition, Inc.
Reproductive Justice Inside
South Prince George's Business and Professional Women
WISE - WISE Women of Maryland
Women's Equality Day Celebration across Maryland
Women's Law Center of Maryland
Yellow Rose Foundation
Zonta Club Mid Maryland
Zonta Club of Annapolis

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