



Senate Bill 275

Labor and Employment - Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program

February 10, 2022

Position: Oppose

Madame Chair and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

The *Restaurant Association of Maryland* opposes Senate Bill 275, which would establish a Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. This program would be funded through shared contributions by employees and employers.

Foodservice businesses continue to struggle from the effects of the COVID pandemic, amid continuing supply chain challenges, rising food and product costs, and labor shortages. Our industry has also been burdened with higher labor costs associated with annual minimum wage increases phased in through 2026 because of the law passed in 2019. Many foodservice businesses also had to switch to costlier disposable carryout containers when the polystyrene foam ban took effect in 2020.

Our industry simply cannot afford piling on yet another mandate that increases the cost of doing business, particularly when we haven't had time to recover from so many other financial hardships.

For these reasons, we oppose this legislation and request an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melvin R. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a long horizontal line.

Melvin R. Thompson
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs and Public Policy