



Testimony on SB275
Time to Care Act of 2022
Position: **FAVORABLE**

To Chair Kelley and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify about why we need paid family leave in Maryland. My name is Rhonda White, and I am a Certified Medicine Aide at Forest Haven Nursing Home and a Delegate for 1199SEIU. I support the Time to Care Act of 2022 and urge the Committee to vote yes on this bill.

Unpaid family leave helped me and my family when we needed it because it protected my job when my 86-year-old mom was sick with her underlying condition. I was the only one taking care of her. When my mom was admitted in the hospital, I was the only person she could depend on, and I didn't have to leave her on her own. I had to have nurses coming in through my home so I could work my 7AM - 3PM shift. I was the only one caring for her all night, and then I would go to work. Family leave helped me because when the day nurse would call and say that my mom was sicker or having an emergency, I could leave work. I could also take her to doctor's appointments and take care of her business, and still have my job protected.

Unpaid leave was a valuable tool for me so I could keep my job, but paid leave would be so much better. I would have been able to care for my mom more, and it would have helped me with my mom's medical expenses because her medications and nurses were very expensive. Family leave was a blessing for me and paid leave would be a blessing for all healthcare workers because it would give us security over our jobs and the money we need to survive. Please issue a **favorable** report on SB275, the Time to Care Act of 2022.

Sincerely,
Rhonda White
Delegate, 1199SEIU