

**TESTIMONY ON SB 828  
FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE INSURANCE PROGRAM - MODIFICATIONS**

**Senate Finance Committee  
March 2, 2023**

**SUPPORT**

**My name is Susan Allen, a resident of Anne Arundel County, a volunteer with the Maryland Poor People's Campaign, and I strongly support SB 828,** which modifies the Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) Program by specifying various aspects of programmatic implementation, administration, and the cost-sharing split. The Maryland Poor People's Campaign **supports the sponsor amendments, which make the cost-sharing split 50-50 between employers and employees, putting SB 828 in the same posture as the House Bill.**

**Passing the Time to Care Act of 2022 last legislative session was a historic victory for all Marylanders - and it was just the first step in realizing Paid Family and Medical Leave in Maryland.** The critical work to create and implement an accessible, equitable, and robust FAMLI program is the next major step in fulfilling the promise of the Time to Care Act of 2022, and the General Assembly still has a key role to play in this collective effort. Passing SB 828 with the sponsor amendments will set important parameters for the FAMLI program, putting the program firmly on the path toward successful implementation.

I have written testimony previously about working my whole career as a teacher without one day of paid medical and family leave. No teacher should have to struggle to take care of her family without this leave.

**In particular, SB 828 - with sponsor amendments - sets the contribution rate for the program with a cost-sharing split of 50% employees, 50% employers.** This is fundamentally important, as it keeps the program affordable and equitable for both employers and employees in Maryland. A 50/50 cost-sharing split is in line with most other states - including our neighboring state of Delaware - that have recently passed FAMLI programs. Maryland passed one of the strongest and most comprehensive FAMLI programs in the country, and this sponsor amendment to create a 50/50 cost-sharing split is of the utmost importance to ensure our program centers the needs of both employees and employers, continuing to set the bar as a national model.

**The Maryland Poor People's Campaign appreciates your consideration and strongly urges a favorable report on SB 828 with sponsor amendments.**

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