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TESTIMONY ON SB828 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Modifications

TO: Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Mara Greengrass

My name is Mara Greengrass. I am a resident of District 18 and I am submitting this testimony in support of SB828, Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Modifications.

I'm a long-time member of Congregation Beth El in Bethesda, where my kids attended preschool and had their b'nai mitzvot. I've talked a lot with them about fundamental Jewish values such as human dignity and community. We must view the "other" as being no different than ourselves and in need of the same kind of care and protection.

In 2018, when my mother was dying, I was an independent contractor with no paid leave. (I still am, in fact!) I learned how to take meetings in hospital rooms, write up reports in the nursing home lobby, and juggle nearly simultaneous phone calls with coworkers and physical therapists while waiting for the hospice nurse to show up. I had to do all of that because if I don't work, I don't get paid.

I was thrilled that this body approved paid family and medical leave for people like me last year and I urge you to make sure it doesn't get watered down. There are so many consultants and contractors and other employees who don't get paid leave. They work through illnesses (their own and their family's) and even family deaths, because the mortgage and electric bills don't stop coming due just because your mother is dying in the Hebrew Home or your son is in the NICU at Shady Grove Adventist.

Please support full implementation of the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. Hard-working Marylanders deserve to take care of their health and families, no matter the circumstances of their employment. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB828 with the sponsor amendments.**