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February 15, 2024

The Honorable Ben Barnes Chair, House Appropriations Committee House Office Building, Room 121 6 Bladen St Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Ben Barnes,

On behalf of the majority of the Women Legislators of Maryland members, we are writing to support **HB52 State Employees – Parental Bereavement Leave**.

This bill provides that certain State employees are entitled to use up to 10 days of parental bereavement leave with pay within 60 days after the death of the employee's child or the employee experiences a stillbirth. This legislation ensures that state employees facing the loss of a child are given appropriate leave to grieve. We recognize the trauma that comes with losing a child as well as the time that is needed to heal and grieve. The Women Legislators of Maryland fully support families and, therefore, offer full support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Delegate Edith J. Patterson

President