



**Testimony Before the Senate Finance Committee
February 16, 2024**

**Senate Bill 485: Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Modification
SUPPORT**

The National Association of Social Workers – Maryland Chapter is a professional organization representing over 3,000 social workers statewide. **NASW Maryland supports SB 485**, which modifies the Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) program by specifying various aspects of programmatic implementation, including the administration and enforcement of the Time to Care Law.

Notably, SB 485 requests a delay of the implementation timeline, moving contributions to July 1, 2025 and benefits to July 1, 2026. NASW Maryland supports the Time to Care Law and is eager for Marylanders to have access to paid leave that the FAMLI program will provide as soon as possible. We also want the program to be robustly accessible and functional. We understand the Department of Labor needs the additional time to build the systems necessary to accept contributions, claims, and pay out benefits. NASW Maryland therefore supports the delay proposed in SB 485.

National Association of Social Workers Maryland appreciates your consideration and urges your support of SB 485.

Respectfully,

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NASW Legislation Committee Member