



Testimony in Support of SB 539

Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI)

Senate Finance Committee

February 27, 2020, 1:00 PM

Submitted by Terrence Cavanagh, Executive Director

The chance of being laid low with a killer virus has certainly gotten our attention recently.

On behalf of Service Employees International Union, Maryland and DC State Council, I am pleased to offer our organization's **support** for **SB 539, *Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) Legislation.***

With over two million members, the Service Employees International Union is the largest union in North America. We are focused on uniting workers in the key service sectors to improve our lives and the services we provide. In Maryland and DC, the seven SEIU locals that make up our State Council represent over 45,000 Health Care, Property Service, and Public Service Workers.

SB 539, or the Time to Care Act, would make a great, positive difference in the lives of thousands of our members and enhance stability in most of their families' lives by removing the anxiety about becoming sick or not having the time to care for a newborn child or a sick dependent.

Passing this legislation would create stability in the lives of Maryland's workers, families, employers and communities. We can follow several other states that have passed similar legislation and join the many others that are moving this issue forward.

The Time to Care Act is a reasonable, common-sense proposal that can make a dramatic difference in our state at a reasonable cost. With a .70 cap in costs, split evenly between workers and employers, it breaks down to a cost of about five cents (\$.05) per hour for a worker earning \$15 per hour, with a share matched by her or his employer.

We all hope and pray to be spared the devastation of a debilitating disease, injury or illness, though we know the odds are that someone we know will. You can make a difference. We urge you to take that step.

SEIU urges a **favorable** report of **SB 539**.

Thank you.

