



# Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

*Shared Voices for Liberal Religious Values in Maryland*

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## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 539:

Labor and Employment – Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) Program Act

TO: Senator Delores Kelley, Chair, and members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Craig Beyler, Chair, Task Force for Economic Justice, Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

DATE: February 18, 2020

As a community of faith, Unitarian Universalists affirm the dignity and worth of all people. It's a bedrock principle that we hold dear and promote throughout the community. There is a dignity that arises out of caring for one's family.

All workers should be able to take paid leave for newborn children and family illness. Existing law calls for leave but does not provide for paid leave. For many Marylanders, taking unpaid leave is simply not possible. They live paycheck to paycheck. Family and Medical Leave should be for every Marylander, not just the affluent. We don't want Marylanders to face impossible choices between job and family.

The bill provides for paid Family and Medical Leave through an insurance program administered by the state and funded by the employer and the employee. This is a common-sense approach that has worked for other forms of statewide insurance (like unemployment insurance).

This is a common-sense solution to a statewide problem and supports families throughout the State of Maryland. Please support SB539, Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) Program Act.