

February 16, 2021

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB375/SB211

**Labor and Employment - Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Establishment
(Time to Care Act of 2021)**

TO: Chair Davis, Vice Chair Dumais, and members of the Economic Matters Committee
FROM: Anita Lampel

My name is Anita Lampel. I live in Bethesda, in District 16. This testimony is in support of HB375/SB211, the Time to Care Act.

In the middle of this COVID pandemic my eight-year-old grandson had a medical emergency. His symptoms increased at home over a week's time until his parents decided they had to take him to the emergency room. There, one parent waited overnight with him until he could be seen by a specialist, while the other parent stayed with my five-year-old granddaughter. My grandson was admitted to the hospital, then transferred to another hospital by ambulance, then released home because that hospital could not help even though he tested positive for an active infection. His recovery at home, still ongoing, has lasted over a month.

My son and daughter-in-law are working parents with two school-age children. This situation crippled my self-employed daughter-in-law's ability to manage her business and employees. It crushed my son's ability to respond to the needs of his clients at his law firm.

Families must have a financial safety net and a guarantee that a job still waits for them when they must take time off to care for themselves or an ill family member. If COVID teaches us anything, it teaches us that we are all responsible for each other—wear a mask, keep your distance—and that serious illness can come to any door and devastate the emotional, social, and economic lives of those impacted.

I ask you to act ethically for Marylanders. **I respectfully urge a favorable report on HB375/SB211.**