

Comments in Support of HB 375: Time to Care Act of 2021

February 16, 2021

Good day, my name is Sharon Long. I am a resident of Fort Washington and I have primary progressive multiple sclerosis, a challenging, chronic, and often disabling disease of the brain and spinal cord. Thank you for the opportunity to share my story in support of the Time to Care Act, HB 375.

After over 20 years of ineffective physical therapy, I was finally diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. I was informed during a lunch-time doctor's appointment and needed to go back to work with this horrible, unexpected diagnosis. I was in shock. But, knowledge gives me strength to fight MS and I am a Warrior.

**I gratefully continue to hold a full-time job amid the current Covid-19 pandemic.** I've never needed time off because of MS. But, realistically, this could happen to me at any moment. MS flare-ups are unpredictable – visible or invisible, varying in frequency, intensity, and duration, there is no way to predict the onset of a flare-up. **But bills for medications, copays, and rent don't care about MS.** The ability to maintain some **level of income**, if unable to work, would be extremely helpful for me and my family.

We, MS Warriors, are fighting to **remain productive** members in the workforce for as long as possible. Please help our fight by supporting the Time to Care Act. Thank you for your time and consideration.