

February 16, 2021

Michael Diamond
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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: Michael S. Diamond, MD

My name is Michael S. Diamond, MD. I live in Potomac, in District 15. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB375/SB211, the Time to Care Act of 2021.

I have been a private solo medical practitioner for 30 years and I strongly support government sponsored paid family leave. As an employer, I have always given my assistant as much paid leave as she needs for whatever the purpose. She is a single mother of two and also bears caretaking responsibility for her mother and grandmother. She is grateful for the flexibility and I appreciate her loyalty. However, it is quite expensive, to say nothing of the fact that I do not get paid at all if I am not working. I am not in a particularly lucrative specialty, but I feel a moral obligation to my employee. Of course if she had easy access to competent and affordable childcare some of her absences would not have been necessary.

By passing the Time to Care Act, Maryland will not only provide much needed support to workers, but also to employers, like myself, who are dedicated to supporting their staff. The United States is woefully behind the rest of the developed world in instituting paid family and medical leave and other workplace supports. No one should be forced to choose between their jobs and caring for themselves or their loved ones. Thank you in advance for your efforts and leadership in bringing closer to a kinder and more compassionate society.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on HB375/SB211.