



SEIU MARYLAND & DC STATE COUNCIL

1410 Bush Street, Suite F
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Testimony in FAVOR of SB 211
The Time to Care Act
Senate Finance Committee
January 28, 2021
1:00 PM

SEIU Maryland & DC State Council urges a **Favorable Report to SB211.**

With over two million members, SEIU is the largest union in North America. We are focused on uniting workers in health care, public services, including in public education, and property services to improve lives and the services we provide. In the Maryland, Washington, DC, and Virginia area, we represent over 50,000 workers.

We are thousands of essential workers in nursing homes, hospitals, schools and public buildings. We are the broad working class. Most of members experience economic insecurity. Feeding, clothing and housing themselves and their families is a challenge they face every day. If, or when, illness or injury strikes, the impact on their families can be devastating.

The **Time to Care Act** is a sensible approach to an issue which, directly or indirectly, affects the vast majority of Maryland families. Most probably don't know what risks they face. By relatively small contributions from workers and employers, the fear of losing one's home and facing economic catastrophe is significantly lessened. None of us are free of the danger of being struck down by a debilitating disease or having a family member becoming disabled. Which of us are able to take the time away from work to nurture a newborn child? Most of us are not able to take time off of work and lose pay. This legislation would provide hundreds of thousands of Maryland families greater security and our communities greater stability.

Several other states have adopted this approach. Now is the time for Maryland to count itself among the leading states by passing the Time to Care Act.

We ask a Favorable Report on SB 211. Thank you.