



Bill No.: SB211

Title: Time to Care Act— Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program

Committee: Finance

Hearing Date: January 28, 2021

Position: Support

Dear Chair Kelley,

I am writing to you in support of SB211/HB375 - the Time to Care Act, which would establish a paid family leave insurance program. Since the start of 2021 I have had the pleasure of serving as Executive Director of Maryland Rise and working with the Time to Care Coalition as campaign manager. The numerous stories and data that have been presented to me displays the positive impact that a paid family leave insurance program will have to Marylanders.

Maryland Rise works to ensure that our state government and economy work for the majority of residents. The Time to Care Act will help address the economic hardship, stress, and other burdens that come into play when caring for new babies, loved ones with serious health conditions, or yourself. Employees' ability to take up to 12 weeks of paid leave will help Maryland families meet their caregiving, employment, and financial needs and commitments while caring for their family.

An OpinionWorks study conducted from December 11-26, 2020, showed overwhelming support that crosses all partisan and geographic lines for paid family leave in Maryland. Results showed 88% of Maryland voters specifically favor creation of "a family and medical leave insurance program that would provide workers with partial wage replacement for up to 12 weeks when they need time away from work to care for a new child, seriously ill family member, or their own serious health condition."

No Marylander should have to choose between the job they need and the family they love. Every Marylander deserves a secure and prosperous life for themselves and their families, and paid family leave will get us one step closer.

Thank you,

Myles Hicks

Executive Director

Maryland Rise

410-404-2170

myles@marylandrise.org