



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.  
*County Executive*

JOEL N. BELLER  
*Acting Director of Government Affairs*

JOSHUA M. GREENBERG  
*Associate Director of Government Affairs*

MIA R. GOGEL  
*Associate Director of Government Affairs*

**BILL NO.: HB 496**

**TITLE:** Labor and Employment - Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Establishment

**SPONSOR:** Delegate Wilson

**COMMITTEE:** Economic Matters

**POSITION:** **SUPPORT**

**DATE:** February 15, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 496 – Labor and Employment – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Establishment. This legislation would provide up to 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave for covered individuals due to specified personal and family circumstances.

Family and medical leave is crucial to the health and well-being of all Maryland residents. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced many employees to choose between earning a paycheck to support their families or taking the time to stay home and care for them. For many, the decision has significant consequences on the financial and physical health of their families. As an employer of more than 20,000 individuals, Baltimore County supports the implementation of a paid family leave program in the State of Maryland.

House Bill 496 protects Maryland’s workers by providing them with up to 12 weeks of family and medical leave paid for by the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Fund through contributions of all employees in the state. This would allow for employees to care for themselves or their loved ones without fear of losing income or employment.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 496. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at [jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov).