



**Mr. Raynard Hall**

**SEIU Local 400PG**

9700 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Testimony in FAVOR of HB 8  
Labor and Employment – Family & Medical Leave Insurance Program –  
Establishment (Time To Care Act – 2022)

House Economic Matters Committee

February 15, 2022

1:00 PM

Presented to: C.T. Wilson, Chairman  
By: Larry Douglass, SEIU Local 400PG

My name is Raynard Hall. I am a member of SEIU 400PG and work for Prince Georges County Public Schools asking for a FAVORABLE REPORT of HB 8.

I hope my own story is one that helps delegates understand what a positive difference having paid Family and Medical Leave can be for workers in Maryland.

I have worked for Prince Georges County Public Schools for 17 ½ years. I am the Night Lead Supervisor at Greenbelt Elementary School. During my time with PGCPs I was able to build up several hundred hours of sick leave as well as to participate in our Sick Leave Bank.

In early 2020 I sustained a back injury when I was rear-ended in a car accident. My doctors told me I would need 8-12 months to recover. It took me 8 months to heal, but during that time, I did not lose pay, thanks to the leave I had built up and our Sick Leave Bank negotiated between my union and my employer.

While I was recuperating, I was able to continue to pay my bills, including for food, clothing, shelter and other necessities. I could concentrate my energy on healing and not worrying about losing my job, my house or my car. I did think about how stressful this would be if I did

not have this benefit. Would it have forced me to go back to work much earlier and risk permanent injury?

I learned that most people do not have jobs where they can accrue union-negotiated sick leave benefits.

I learned that most workers do not have access to a Sick Leave Bank that our union negotiated with the school district that allows workers like me to draw upon when needed.

Since we know many of us will be injured or get sick, we shouldn't need to rely on luck. Any one of us could fall victim to an illness or accident. Why should we risk financial collapse with all the stress that causes families if we are able to insure against it?

The Time to Care Act, or Paid Family & Medical Leave legislation would provide stability to the lives of workers, their families, their communities and to their employers. The bill would also lessen the stress families face if wage earners were injured or become seriously ill.

We commend Delegate Valderrama for introducing this bill. Working Marylanders need it.

Thank you for your time. I ask that you pass HOUSE BILL 8. Thank you.