

Date of Hearing: 2/10/2022

Anita Lampel
Bethesda, Dist. 16, 20817

TESTIMONY ON HB0008 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
THE TIME TO CARE ACT

TO: Honorable House Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Anita Lampel

My name is Anita Lampel. I am a resident of District 16.. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB0008.

I am a retired psychologist, parent of two, and grandparent of four. I belong to Congregation Adat Shalom, Bethesda, which is a Community of Faith signatory in favor of this bill. My Jewish values hold that it is a sacred obligation of the community to help care for the sick and elderly, the newborn, the orphan, and those in the military. This is more than just a prayer for the healing of the ill which we say every Shabbat. It is a direct call to act on their behalf.

During COVID, one of my grandchildren, age 8, was very ill with a hard-to-diagnose strep infection. His parents had to take him to an Emergency Room, where he stayed for almost 24 hours before being transferred to a hospital by ambulance and then home. He needed days of tender, constant care. The younger sibling, 5, of course also required attention. Even if one parent had been enough, which was not the case, that parent had to take time off work. Because this grandchild lives in California, a state with guaranteed sick leave to care for a family member and guaranteed salary support, my grandchild's illness did not cause his parents to lose their jobs or to worry about how to balance food and shelter with critical health costs. In Maryland, however, adults confront job loss, no income, and the horrible choice—take care of my child, myself, my loved one OR work.

HB0008, so aptly named the Time to Care Act, will correct this. For a minimal amount of money, the employee can self-insure and the employer can contribute just .05% or less per pay period. Both employer and employee gain. And the more vulnerable, the lower paid workers, those who have less savings to fall back on, who are more likely to suffer significant deprivation because they have no paid leave, will have enough money to keep shelter and food and medicine in place.

In closing, I support the passage of HB0008. Now, in the time of COVID, it is imperative to do this. Please act now to end the crippling financial hardship that accompanies illness, having a

baby, or going off to serve our country. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB0008**