

To Chair Wilson and the House Economics Committee:

My name is Linda Bussey and I have 38 years of experience in retail service at Safeway in Chevy Chase Maryland. Thirty days after my hire date, I joined the UFCW Local 400 Union and have been a member ever since.

Even though I am currently in management, I stayed a part of this organization because I am a single mother of 3 boys and I wanted to ensure that I could always have a job that would assist me with taking care of them. This is why I am here today to tell you about my experience with the sick leave policy when I recently got ill at work and needed to take time off. I realized that if I didn't come to work, I did not get paid. But If I don't get paid, I cannot support my family.

We need a family paid sick leave option so that workers like me can get paid and still be able to support their families.

I ask that you support HB 496 for Maryland families.