

February 15, 2022

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**TESTIMONY ON HB008 - POSITION: FAVORABLE**

**Labor and Employment – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Establishment  
(Time to Care Act of 2022)**

**TO:** Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby and members of the Economic Matters Committee  
**FROM:** Michael English

My name is Michael English. I am a resident of District 20. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB008, Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program, or the Time to Care Act of 2022).

I am one of the lucky ones. When I had to take time to help care for my parents after surgery on several occasions over the years I not only had the paid sick leave to do so, but knew I had an employer that wouldn't hold it against me, or my employment status, for taking it. Many are not so lucky. Whether it is caring for a sick relative, or taking parental leave after having a child, too many people and families need to make a choice between caring for the people they love and keeping food on the table and a roof over their heads. That's just plain wrong, especially in a state like Maryland that likes to tout its progressiveness. Several close friends of mine have children in recent years, and both from talking with them and seeing it first hand, I can tell you that the paid time off many of them were able to have with their child was priceless. Or at least, I'd like to be able to tell you that. It's no coincidence that these friends had the means and the jobs to get paid leave and fill in the gap of their normal pay. Families with no assistance and fewer resources to throw at the situation know all too well how high the price actually is.

This needs to stop, and it needs to stop now. The bill provides an even split between employees and employers, and will help make small businesses more competitive with larger ones that can already afford this benefit. It has wide approval for a reason and we need to move it forward.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB008