

Maryland Commission for Women

A Commission of the Maryland Department of Human Services

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www.marylandwomen.org

February 8, 2022



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The Honorable C. T. Wilson, Chair
The Honorable Brian M. Crosby, Vice Chair
Economic Matters Committee
House Office Building – Room 231
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB 0008 - Time to Care Act

Dear Delegate Wilson, Delegate Crosby, and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee:

The Maryland Commission for Women writes to you with respect to HB 0008 – the Time to Care Act, which concerns family and medical leave. As discussed below, family and medical leave is an issue that the Maryland Commission for Women (“MCW”) has long supported.

As you may know, the MCW was established in 1965 and was set in state law in 1971. An office of the Department of Human Services, the Commission is a 25-member advisory board whose duties outlined in its enabling legislation include: study the status of women in our state, recommend methods of overcoming discrimination, recognize women’s accomplishments and contributions, and provide informed advice to the executive and legislative branches of government on the issues concerning the women of our state. It is to fulfill this mandate that the Commission writes to you today.

(Please note that the positions expressed in this letter are those of the MCW and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Governor or the Department of Human Services.)

Family and medical leave issues have long been a forefront concern of the Commission. This issue became even more of a concern during the pandemic when numerous women sacrificed their own health, well-being and careers to care for others. The Commission’s survey of women in Maryland led us to conclude that paid leave is essential for all employees, especially women who tend to be primary caregivers, in order to deal with family and medical needs. We state loudly and strongly our support for family and medical leave. No one should have to choose between going to work or losing a job when they or a family member is ill.

The MCW believes it is essential for family and medical leave legislation to be passed. The Commission would be supportive of any legislation that adequately and promptly deals with family and medical leave concerns.

With very best regards,


Yun Jung Yang, Chair
Maryland Commission for Women