

TESTIMONY ON HB 8 - FAVORABLE
(Time to Care Act of 2022)

TO: Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and members of the Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Seth A. Morgan

My name is Seth A. Morgan. I am a resident of District 18. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 8, the Time to Care Act of 2022, which would establish a paid family leave insurance program.

During my recovery from a severe illness in 2020, my son, who lives in California, was able to take time from his job to care for me. Thanks to California being one of the States having established a paid family leave law/fund, my son did not suffer the financial hardship he otherwise would have. Further, the numerous stories that have been reported display the positive impact that a paid family leave insurance program will have for Marylanders.

The Time to Care Act will help address the economic hardship, stress, and other burdens that come into play when caring for new babies, loved ones with serious health conditions, or yourself. Employees' ability to take up to 12 weeks of paid leave will help Maryland families meet their caregiving, employment, and financial needs and commitments while caring for their family.

An OpinionWorks study conducted from December 15, 2021- January 10, 2022, showed overwhelming support that crosses all partisan and geographic lines for paid family leave in Maryland. Results showed 88% of Maryland voters specifically favor creation of "a family and medical leave insurance program that would provide workers with partial wage replacement for up to 12 weeks when they need time away from work to care for a new child, seriously ill family member, or their own serious health condition."

No Marylander should have to choose between the job they need and the family they love. Paid family and medical leave legislation must be cost-effective for workers, employers and the government with employers contributing at least as much as employees, cover all working people, apply equally to all working people regardless of gender, and reflect an inclusive definition of family and provide up to 12 weeks of leave and job security. I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB 8.

Thank you,

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