



TESTIMONY TO THE ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE

HB 0008: Time To Care Act 2022

POSITION: Support

BY: Nancy Soreng, President

DATE: February 15, 2022

The League of Women Voters of Maryland is dedicated to ensuring equitable leave for all Marylanders.

LWVMD supports Paid Family Leave based not only on our own positions, but LWVUS positions. LWVMD supports meeting basic human needs so that no family or individual finds themselves in poverty whatever the circumstances might be. LWVMD has been committed to this since 2013. Beyond this LWVMD also holds strong positions on children's services founded through a study in 1995. The first goal of this position is to support "making the needs of children a high priority of the government." Without Paid Family Leave many Maryland families will find themselves in situations where the primary caregiver, while still typically mothers, but an ever growing number of fathers, are forced to leave newborn, or newly adopted children, mere weeks after bringing them home. If the primary caregiver has to take unpaid leave the burden of supporting the family could rest on the partner if the caregiver even has one.

We hope that this committee will believe the health and well being of all Marylanders is a priority of the government.

For this reason LWVMD urges a favorable report for House Bill 0008.