



Bill No.: HB496

Title: Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program

Committee: Economic Matters Committee

Hearing Date: February 15, 2022

Position: Support

Dear Chairman Wilson,

I am writing to you in support of HB8496, which would establish a paid family leave insurance program. Since the start of 2021 I have had the pleasure of serving as Executive Director of Maryland Rise and working with the Time to Care Coalition as campaign manager. The numerous stories and data that have been presented to me displays the positive impact that a paid family leave insurance program will have to Marylanders.

Maryland Rise works to ensure that our state government and economy work for the majority of residents. 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.

I have heard stories from various communities including business owners, unions, parents, and more, so there is no surprise that 88% of Maryland voters favor creation of a family and medical leave insurance program. Polling from prior and during the pandemic show that Marylander's support for paid family and medical leave has not waived. We have seen nine states and D.C pass paid family and medical leave legislation, and now it is Maryland's turn!

No Marylander should have to choose between the job they need and the family they love. Every Marylander deserves a secure and prosperous life for themselves and their families, and paid family leave will get us one step closer.

I urge a favorable report on HB496 which would establish a paid family leave insurance program.

Thank you,

Myles Hicks
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