

HB496

Hearing Date: 2/15

Dr. Anna I. Rubin

Columbia, MD 21045

TESTIMONY ON HB#008 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

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

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

FROM: Dr. Anna I. Rubin

OPENING: My name is Anna Rubin. I am a resident of District 13. I am submitting this testimony (in support of/in support with amendments/) (HB#008), Time to Care Act of 2022.

I am a member of Columbia Jewish Congregation and act as the co-chair of its Social Action Committee. Having the ability to take care of family members and oneself during illness is a crucial need. Jewish tradition elevates the family to a sacred status and mandates that family needs must be met in order for the survival of the community in service to Jewish goals of repairing our broken world. I am a retired associate professor of music and taught at UMBC for several years. I was fortunate enough to have excellent medical benefits and the support of my department when I suffered a concussion while still on the faculty. I was able to negotiate a lighter teaching load as I recuperated. I know how privileged – and rare – such an arrangement is for so many Marylanders.

The Time to Care Act is well overdue to help our citizens cope with a variety of medical and personal issues. I believe this is a fair and balanced law that will improve our economy by improving the working conditions for so many employees.

All Marylanders who work and who need time to care for relatives or themselves, especially new parents, people with chronic conditions, families of military personnel, low-income and part-time workers, small business employees, and self-employed people will benefit from this law. Many minorities are disproportionately unable to take time off to care for themselves or family members. I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable vote on HB#496.

Sincerely,
Dr. Anna Rubin