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**BILL NO.: HB 496**

**TITLE:** Commission on the Establishment of a Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program

**SPONSOR:** Delegate Valderrama

**COMMITTEE:** Finance

**POSITION:** **SUPPORT**

**DATE:** March 29, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 496 – Labor and Employment – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Establishment. This legislation establish the Commission on the Establishment of a Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program.

Family and medical leave is crucial to the health and well-being of all Maryland residents. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced many employees to choose between earning a paycheck to support their families or taking the time to stay home and care for them. For many, the decision has significant consequences on the financial and physical health of their families. As an employer of more than 20,000 individuals, Baltimore County supports the implementation of a paid family leave program in the State of Maryland.

House Bill 496 would establish a Commission to study paid family leave in Maryland, which would protect Maryland's workers by providing them with family and medical leave paid for by contributions of all employees in the state.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 496. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at [jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov).