



ShelterPoint Life Insurance Company

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HB 988: Testimony Before the Maryland House Economic Matters Committee

- Good afternoon, Chair Wilson and members of the Committee, my name is Sarah Coli. I am the Assistant Counsel for ShelterPoint Life Insurance Company. I am here on behalf of both ShelterPoint and as a member of the Maryland League of Life and Health Insurers.
- ShelterPoint is New York's largest provider of statutory Short-Term Disability, covering almost 200,000 employers, most of which are quite small, with less than ten employees. We provide this important coverage to nearly two million employees. We have also been an approved private plan carrier for New Jersey's State Disability since 2003. Most recently, we began providing Massachusetts Paid Family and Medical Leave starting in 2021 and Connecticut Paid Family and Medical Leave starting in 2022, and have been approved to participate in the new paid family and medical leave programs in Oregon and Colorado. We come with a history of experience in the statutory benefits field, which has been a resource in other states such as Colorado as they stand up their own Family and Medical Leave Insurance program.
- ShelterPoint supports HB 988, and I would like to publicly thank Delegate Qi for sponsoring this legislation.
- ShelterPoint, along with many other members of the League, stand ready to offer paid family leave policies in Maryland. Many private insurers are well-equipped to provide these important employee benefits as they have the capital, organizational structure, and professional staff with expertise to handle benefits including paid family and medical leave. We are an important resource and our participation in the program has been demonstrated in other states to help make the paid family and medical leave program a success.
- ShelterPoint, both as members of trade associations and on our own accord, have worked closely with regulators as PFML programs have been successfully implemented in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Oregon, and Colorado and we look forward to continuing this close collaboration with the Maryland Department of Labor and the Maryland Department of Insurance to ensure that paid family and medical leave policies are available to Marylander employers.
- I respectfully ask that the committee favorably report this bill. Thank you for your time. I am available to answer any technical questions you may have.