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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of SB0109 - State Employees - Parental Bereavement Leave

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and Members of the House Appropriations Committee:

SB0109 as amended would:

- Entitle state employees and employees of a public institution of higher education to up to 60 days of parental bereavement leave if the employee experiences a stillbirth or a death of an infant under the age of six months.
- Entitle state employees and employees of a public institution of higher education to up to ten days of parental bereavement leave if the employee experiences the death of a child of at least six months of age through age 27.

Background

As a mother, I cannot begin to fathom the grief that parents experience when losing a child. In such a tragic event, adequate time is needed for self-care before one can begin give the attention that's needed to do one's job on behalf of the people of Maryland.

Existing Law

Currently, state employees who lose a child are entitled to use five of their accrued days sick leave or may take up to three days of bereavement leave.

Solution

Passing this bill isn't just the right thing to do from a compassionate perspective, it's the right policy for our state as we work to rebuild state government.

Per the Fiscal Note, SB0109 would not have a state fiscal impact. SB0109 is nearly identical to its cross-file, HB52. The only differences and a clarifying amendment are currently being worked out by the staffs of the Appropriations and Finance Committees. Both bills are on track to be in the same posture coming out of their opposite chambers.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on SB0109.