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Budget and Taxation Committee

Education, Business and  
Administration Subcommittee

Pensions Subcommittee

Chair, Rules Committee

Finance Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
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Testimony of Senator Joanne C. Benson  
SB 64: Income Tax – Credit for Employers Providing Parental Engagement Leave

Good afternoon, Chairman Guzzone and esteemed members of the Budget and Taxation Committee. Today I vehemently proffer testimony in vigorous support of Senate Bill 64, an “*Income Tax – Credit for Employers Providing Parental Engagement Leave*.” This bill provides:

“ a tax credit for employers who provide [...] parental engagement leave to qualified employees during the taxable year [...] by requiring] the State Department of Education, in consultation with the Comptroller, to [provide] a certain certification form [which requires qualified employees to] obtain [required county board member *and* school personnel signatures]; making the credit refundable [per circumstance].”

Ultimately, the purpose of this bill is to provide a positive incentive which allows employers who provide parental engagement leave to certain qualified employees during the taxable year a credit against the State income tax.

This matter strikes my passions, and as I reflect upon a storied career, a story from it is relevant here. When I was a principal, our County superintendent implemented an eight week partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, whereby each public school partnered with a county business. Mentors from each business worked with children and teachers alike. As a result, we saw increased academic performance, a highly motivated school population, and more parental involvement.

I believe with the passing of this bill and all of the positive outcomes that surely will come with it, Senate Bill 64’s tax credit for employers against income tax would help in raising the bar for our children. Let us not forget, our children rest in the primary purpose of this legislation.

I, therefore, request a positive response to this very important bill. And, we all know, a positive response necessitates a committee report fervently in favor of Senate Bill 64.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and importantly, thank all of you: my fellow committee members. I *always* appreciate your time and am counting on your continued support.