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Prince George's County

MAJORITY WHIP

Budget and Taxation Committee

Education, Business and  
Administration Subcommittee

Pensions Subcommittee

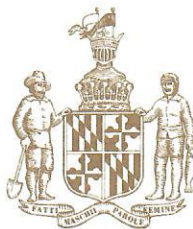
*Joint Committees*

Audit and Evaluation Committee

Children, Youth, and Families

Ending Homelessness

Fair Practices and  
State Personnel Oversight



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Senator Joanne C. Benson

SB721: Income Tax Credit for Employee Providing Parental Engagement Leave

Esteemed Chairman Guzzone and Vice Chairman Rosapepe, and distinguished members of the Budget and Taxation Committee, I come before you today to fervently advocate for Senate Bill SB721, the "Income Tax Credit for Employers Providing Parental Engagement Leave." This bill offers employers a tax credit for providing parental engagement leave to qualified employees during the taxable year, which will undoubtedly have a positive impact on our children's lives.

As a former principal, I have seen firsthand the benefits of parental engagement in schools. When our County superintendent implemented a partnership between public schools and county businesses, we witnessed increased academic performance, a highly motivated school population, and more parental involvement. Senate Bill 721 tax credit for employers against income tax has the potential to encourage more employers to provide parental engagement leave, which will ultimately benefit our children.

I urge you to support this bill, which provides a positive incentive for employers to prioritize parental engagement in the workplace. The State Department of Education, in consultation with the Comptroller, will provide a certification form that requires qualified employees to obtain required county board member and school personnel signatures, and the credit is refundable under certain circumstances.

In conclusion, I respectfully request a positive response to this critical bill. Let us prioritize our children's well-being and give them the best chance at success by supporting Senate Bill 721. Thank you for your time and consideration.