



Testimony Concerning HB 571
“Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Modifications”
Submitted to the House Economic Matters Committee
February 14, 2024

Position: Support

Maryland Family Network (MFN) strongly supported establishing a Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) program through which employees could take partially paid leave from their jobs to care for new children, other family members with serious health conditions or disabilities, or themselves. HB 571 makes modifications to improve clarity, accessibility, and implementation.

MFN has worked since 1945 to improve the availability and quality of child care and other supports for children and their families. We have been active in state and federal debates on policies that address the needs of working families and are strongly committed to ensuring that they have the supports they need to care for their children while meeting the demands of their jobs.

The newly established Family and Medical Leave Insurance Division in the Maryland Department of Labor prioritized robust engagement with employers, employees, and other stakeholders. Procurement, IT infrastructure, and effective outreach take time. Staff have considered the experiences of other states that have already implemented programs. Thirteen states and the District of Columbia now have paid family and medical leave laws on the books. Delaware, Minnesota, and Maine followed Maryland. All have taken time to plan from passage until payment of benefits.

Ensuring accessibility and clarity will benefit all users. MFN respectfully urges favorable consideration of HB 571.

