

**Testimony Before the House Economic Matters Committee  
February 14, 2024**

**House Bill 571: Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Modification  
SUPPORT**

The National Association of Social Workers – Maryland Chapter is a professional organization representing over 3,000 social workers statewide. **NASW Maryland supports HB 571**, which modifies the Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) program by specifying various aspects of programmatic implementation, including the administration and enforcement of the Time to Care Law.

Notably, HB 571 requests a delay of the implementation timeline, moving contributions to July 1, 2025 and benefits to July 1, 2026. NASW Maryland supports the Time to Care Law and is eager for Marylanders to have access to paid leave that the FAMLI program will provide as soon as possible. We also want the program to be robustly accessible and functional. We understand the Department of Labor needs the additional time to build the systems necessary to accept contributions, claims, and pay out benefits. NASW Maryland therefore supports the delay proposed in HB 571.

National Association of Social Workers Maryland appreciates your consideration and urges your support of HB 571.

Respectfully,

Andre' Thompson, MSW, CSC-AD, RPS  
NASW Legislation Committee Member