



TESTIMONY FOR HB0571
Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Alterations

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Qi

Committee: Economic Matters

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0571 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

The Time to Care Act of 2022 that was passed in the last legislative session, will help all Marylanders by ensuring that paid Family and Medical Leave is available in times of need. Now, what remains is to ensure that the Time to Care Act is fully implemented and that Marylanders see a robust, equitable, and accessible FAML I program.

This bill, if enacted, will establish the administrative parameters for implementation of the Time to Care Act. It also requests a delay of the implementation timeline in order to ensure that care is taken in building the necessary systems to accept contributions, and claims, and pay out benefits.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.