



February 10, 2025

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Finance Committee
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 523 - State Employees – Cancer Screening – Paid Leave

Dear Chair Beidle:

The Maryland State Council on Cancer Control (Council) is submitting this letter of support for Senate Bill 523 (SB 523), which would provide paid leave for state employees to undergo cancer screenings. This legislation represents a crucial step in promoting employee health and well-being, and reinforces Maryland's commitment to public health leadership.

Investing in Employee Health and Well-being:

As a champion of public health, the State of Maryland should lead by example in prioritizing preventative care. Offering dedicated leave for cancer screenings is a direct investment in the health and well-being of state employees. Early detection of cancer dramatically improves survival rates and treatment outcomes, saving lives and potentially reducing long-term healthcare costs. By providing paid leave, Maryland removes financial barriers that can prevent employees from accessing these vital screenings, ensuring they can prioritize their health without fear of lost income or job security.

Creating a Culture of Health and Engagement:

Paid cancer screening leave fosters a culture of well-being and demonstrates the state's commitment to its workforce. This investment in employee health translates to increased morale, engagement, and a stronger sense of value among state employees. These positive outcomes contribute to higher productivity, reduced absenteeism, and potentially lower employee turnover, ultimately benefiting the state's operational efficiency.

Economic Benefits:

Preventative care, including cancer screenings, is a sound economic investment. Early detection reduces the need for costly and complex treatments associated with advanced cancers. Furthermore, a healthy and engaged workforce is more productive, contributing to a stronger state economy.



Leading by Example:

Neighboring states like Virginia and Delaware have already recognized the importance of this benefit. Maryland has the opportunity to join them in setting a new standard for employee well-being and responsible healthcare practices.

The Council encourages the Committee to vote favorably on SB 523. By prioritizing cancer screening leave, Maryland invests in its most valuable asset – its people – while solidifying its commitment to public health and building a healthier future for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Celano, MD." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Paul Celano, MD
Vice Chair,
Maryland State Council on Cancer Control