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PERSONAL TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OF SENATE BILL 355
Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Delay of Implementation

Finance Committee

February 5, 2025

As a future social worker and lifelong Marylander, **I strongly oppose SB355 Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Delay of Implementation.** By delaying the implementation of the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program, Maryland will continue to lag behind almost all of the northeast states including Delaware, New York, New Jersey, and Massachusetts. I have spent my life in the great state of Maryland, even recently buying a home in the 46th district. However, as I enter my 30s and plan to start a family I must take into consideration the type of support our state is offering to new parents during those most crucial first months. As a past early childhood educator, I know just how important it is to start children off on the right foot from the very beginning. It is imperative to me and my fiancé that we are able to bond with our child during their first moments without fear of financial instability. Without the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program we are likely to move out of state to start our family despite our desire to remain proud Marylanders. We love our state and have made a home here, but we must also consider the benefits that many of our surrounding states are offering to new parents that Maryland continues to postpone. **I urge an unfavorable report so that Maryland remains a place that families wish to put down roots in.**

Respectfully,

Morgan H. Carroll