

House Health Committee
6 Bladen Street
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

3/16/2026

Dear Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the House,

I am writing to express my sincere support for **HB1558**.

When my husband, Patrick, decided to return to school to become a Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant, we believed that this new career path would allow him to serve patients while still maintaining meaningful time with our family. Unfortunately, because he has been unable to work closer to home in Maryland, our time together is extremely limited making it difficult to raise our family the way we always planned.

I am a third-grade teacher at School of the Incarnation, and by the time Patrick arrives home each evening, I am often exhausted and preparing for the next day. Our three daughters feel the strain even more deeply. Patrick leaves the house before they wake up and is home only briefly before they go to bed. As a result, he frequently misses the moments that mean so much to our children like their music concerts, tennis matches, and awards ceremonies simply because he is too far away during rush hour to make it home in time.

Dinner has always been an important part of our family life and a time we intentionally set aside to reconnect at the end of the day. It is the one time when we are all together, sharing laughter, talking about our days, and planning small adventures as a family.

With our oldest now a sophomore at St. Mary's High School, another daughter preparing to join her there next year, and our youngest a rising seventh grader, Patrick and I often find ourselves reflecting on how quickly this time is passing. We know that our years with them all at home are limited. These are important years, when we help guide our daughters as they think about the futures they hope to build, and many of those meaningful conversations happen around the dinner table.

Unfortunately, Patrick misses dinner every night. In doing so, he also misses those daily conversations and the opportunity to stay closely connected to his daughters as they grow and change so quickly.

If Patrick were able to work in Maryland, he would gain back precious time with our family. While I understand that licensing considerations and fees are part of this process, our family would gladly meet those requirements if it meant having him closer to home.

Patrick is a devoted father who does everything he can to stay involved in our daughters' lives despite these challenges. I am simply asking for your support in making it possible for families like ours to have a little more time together.

Thank you for your time and for considering the impact this bill could have on families across Maryland.

Sincerely,

Brianne Flaherty
3rd Grade Teacher