

February 2, 2022

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley
3 East Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Email: AA_FIN@mlis.state.md.us

Re: SB0275 – Labor and Employment – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Establishment (Time to Care Act of 2022)

Dear Chairwoman Kelley:

The Allegany County Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests the Finance Committee give an **Unfavorable Report** to Senate Bill 275 – Labor and Employment – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Establishment (Time to Care Act of 2022).

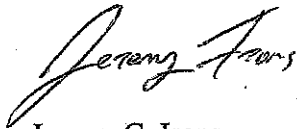
As Maryland businesses large and small continue to suffer setbacks from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is not the time to add additional costs of doing business in the state. In Mountain Maryland, we continue to face employment challenges that have been addressed through unexpected, but necessary, increased wages, paid time off, and other unique incentives to aid in continued operations. Many of these businesses have offered these incentives without mandates. Of large concern is the proposed administration of this program under the Maryland Department of Labor, which continues to work through staggering unemployment claims dating back to 2020.

The Allegany County Chamber of Commerce supports and understands a need to address the challenges that are faced by families when medical leave is necessary but believes there are alternatives to address this in a way that will not further burden employers, especially small businesses, and non-profit organizations.

During a time in which we continue to navigate an ongoing pandemic, creating new regulations and mandates would be crippling. Therefore, the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce **opposes** Senate Bill 275.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeremy G. Irons
Legislative Committee Chair



Juli R. McCoy
Executive Director

cc: Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Vice Chair, Finance Committee
Finance Committee Members
Western Maryland Delegation