



## Testimony in Support of HB 839

### *Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI)*

### House Economic Matters Committee

February 24, 2020, 1:00 PM

Submitted by Terrence Cavanagh, Executive Director

**SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION MARYLAND & DC STATE COUNCIL**

On behalf of Service Employees International Union, Maryland and DC State Council, I am pleased to offer our organization's **support** for **HB 839, *Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) Legislation.***

With over two million members, the Service Employees International Union is the largest union in North America. We are focused on uniting workers in the key service sectors to improve our lives and the services we provide. In Maryland and DC, the seven SEIU locals that make up our State Council represent over 45,000 Health Care, Property Service, and Public Service Workers.

***HB 839 or the Time to Care Act*** would make a great positive difference in the lives of thousands of our members and enhance stability in most of their families lives by removing the anxiety about becoming sick or not be able to care for a newborn child or sick child.

Passing this legislation would create stability in the lives of our workers, families, employers and communities. We can follow the several other states that have passed similar legislation and join the many others that are moving this issue forward.

The Time to Care Act is a reasonable, common-sense proposal that can make a dramatic difference in our state at a reasonable cost. With a .70 cap in costs, split evenly between workers and employers, it breaks down to a cost of about than 5 cents per hour for a worker making \$15 per hour, with an equal amount paid by an employer.

We all hope that sickness or disability doesn't strike our family, although we know the odds are that it will either strike us or someone close to us. You can take action to make a difference. Please take that step.

SEIU urges a **favorable** report of **HB 839**.

Thank you.

