



**TESTIMONY FOR HB1326
MARYLAND HEALTHY WORKING FAMILIES ACT – REVISIONS AND PUBLIC
HEALTH EMERGENCY LEAVE**

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Dumais

Committee: Economic Matters

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB1326 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Our members support the Healthy Working Families Act. However, we were frustrated by the carve outs for agricultural workers, temporary workers, and part-time workers. We see no reason to exclude these classes of workers. Sick leave is about humane conditions for working – allowing people to take time off when they need to in order to support their own health or the health of family members. Excluding these groups of people says very loudly that they are not valued. We applaud this revision to include them in paid sick leave regulations.

Additionally, we feel that the inclusion of language that requires employers to provide additional paid sick leave in declared emergency situations like that of the pandemic we are currently experiencing is an important way to; 1) control the spread of the disease and, 2) ensure that additional people don't die because their employer was more concerned about their bottom line than the lives of the workers they employ.

Our members do actively support small businesses and we believe they should be able to make a profit. However, because there are businesses that don't care about their employees, and value making a profit over their employees' health, we feel that these regulations are necessary.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.

