



Celebrating 50 Years of Advancing Justice

Listen. Engage. Advocate

Friend of the WLC

Imagine a world where women did not have to return to work 10 days after giving birth (the average in the US), or where men could take the time off they needed to care for their partners who are ill.

Imagine not having to worry about losing your income on top of having to worry about the health of an ailing parent or child.

Imagine how many families would be better off right now, or how many workers would still have their jobs right now, if we had Paid Family Leave in Maryland throughout the pandemic.

Today the Senate will hear [SB 275 Labor and Employment – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Establishment \(Time to Care Act of 2022\)](#), a piece of legislation that is long overdue.

By utilizing a system very similar to unemployment insurance, the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program (FAMLI) will allow workers to take the time off they need to care for themselves or their family members, without fear of losing their jobs or their paychecks.

The [House version](#) of Time to Care will be heard next week, along with [another version](#) of the bill sponsored by the Chair of Economic Matters, [CT Wilson](#). We are supporting *both* bills, as they both ensure that *all* working Marylanders receive not just job protection to take the time off that they need, but also the continued financial security they need to take it. Regardless of which version gets passed, we are grateful to the sponsors, [Senator Antonio Hayes](#) and [Delegate Kris Valderrama](#), who have championed this bill for the past several years. And for our coalition leaders at [Time to Care](#).

But the work won't stop after the bill hearings are held. In fact, that is when we need YOU the most! **There are 3 easy things you can do to help make sure no one is left choosing between their family's health and their paycheck:**

1. We will let you know when the bills are up for committee votes so that you can reach out to the members and urge them to vote favorably on the bills. Check out the WLC's [written testimony](#) for more information or use this [template](#) to draft your own.
2. [Join the Time to Care movement](#) to learn more about the bill and share your testimonials.
3. Meet us at the **Don't Leave Families in the Dark – Paid Family Leave Rally** in Annapolis on Monday, February 21st at 6:30pm. Register for the rally [HERE](#).

Because at some point, everyone will need Time to Care.

Onward,

The WLC Advocacy Team

P.S. As always, if you appreciate the work we do, whether in the General Assembly or through our [direct legal services](#) across the State, [give here!](#)

P.P.S. Make sure you mark down these upcoming events of interest from our sister-partners and allies:

Have a heart and join advocacy groups such as [Healthcare for the Homeless](#),

[Maryland Healthcare for All Coalition](#), [the Public Justice Center](#), [ProChoice Maryland](#), and [Progressive Maryland](#) for [Health Justice Lobby Day](#) on Monday, February 14th via Zoom. For more information or to register go [HERE](#).

On February 16th, the Maryland State Bar Association, with the Maryland Access to Justice Commission, is hosting its virtual [MSBA DAY](#) from 8:30am-12:30pm where members can hear directly from elected officials and learn about the legislative issues most important to the MSBA and to the Access to Justice Commission.

The time to pass the [Time to Care Act](#) and provide paid family leave to Marylanders is NOW. Join advocates and the [Time to Care coalition](#) for a rally to support paid family leave at Lawyer's Mall on Monday, February 21st at 6:30pm. Register for the Rally and find out more information [HERE](#).

If it's a little too cold to venture outside, but you still want to make sure you're part of the pro-choice movement in Maryland, join MLAW, WLC, ProChoice Maryland and other sponsor organizations for the annual Gender Justice Rally being held on Zoom on Monday, February 21st at 6pm. More information TBD.

Finally, join our friends at the [Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence](#) as they honor and remember the lives lost in the past year to intimate partner violence at their virtual [Memorial Service](#), February 22nd at 4pm.

GIVE TODAY

Sponsorships and tickets now available for our 50th Anniversary Celebration & Awards Ceremony!

About The Women's Law Center of Maryland

The vision of the Women's Law Center of Maryland is a legal system that provides justice and fairness for women. The Women's Law Center's mission is to ensure the physical safety, economic security, and autonomy of women throughout the State. We work towards this goal by providing direct legal representation, information and referral services, and legislative advocacy.

Our efforts to promote justice, fairness, and equality for women are only possible because of friends like you.

Give Today

The Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc. is a charitable organization designated as tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3). A copy of our financial statement is available upon request. Documents and information submitted under the State of Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary of State of Maryland, Annapolis, MD 21401 for the cost of copying and postage.

