



Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington, DC

Written testimony of Elizabeth B. Harned, JD, Vice President of Public Affairs, Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington, D.C.

Testimony in support of Bill 10-22 The Paid Parental Leave Act, and Bill 11-22 The Right to Nourish Act
July 18, 2022

Dear Councilmembers,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony in support of Bill 10-22 The Paid Parental Leave Act, and Bill 11-22 The Right to Nourish Act. As the Vice President of Public Affairs at Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington, DC (PPMW), I am honored to show our support for these critical bills that improve maternal and child health outcomes. Thank you to Councilmember Friedson for introducing these bills and the Councilmembers who support these bills.

PPMW is honored to provide high-quality sexual and reproductive health care to individuals at our Gaithersburg, Maryland health center, as well as at health centers in Suitland, Maryland and Washington, DC. PPMW offers compassionate, non-judgemental care for a wide variety of health care services such as abortion, contraception, gender affirming care, wellness exams, primary care, and a number of other critical health care services.

PPMW urges the Council to support and pass both The Paid Parental Leave Act and The Right to Nourish Act. The Paid Parental Leave Act would allow County employees to have six weeks of paid parental leave to care and spend quality time with their new child/children. It is important to have bonding time, bolster healthy families/individuals, and provide equity in allowing both parents the opportunity to have paid leave. The Right to Nourish Act would make lactation rooms mandatory in all County buildings. This would allow for people who lactate to have a designated area for privacy when lactating, a break in order to lactate, and the amenities and educational materials necessary to assist them during this period.

PPMW believes in an individual's right to paid parental leave, and ensuring that individuals have a lactation room available to them at their place of work. We know that both paid parental leave and lactation areas create and help families/individuals lead healthy lives. PPMW is committed to equity for all individuals and families, and it is especially imperative that Black, Indigenous, and people of color have paid parental leave and rooms for lactating at work to help alleviate health disparities, allow for equitable job growth and economic security, and give new parents the opportunity to bond and have quality time with their child/children. These bills allow people the ability to have the dignity to care and provide for their child/children/families as they see necessary.



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Again, thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony in support of bill 10-22 and bill 11-22. PPMW applauds the efforts of the Montgomery County Council to work to create an equitable workplace for County employees who have children. We urge the Council to build upon these bills and offer our support in helping to create healthy and equitable communities.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth B. Harned, JD
Vice President of Public Affairs
Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington, DC